Wednesday, November 9, 2011 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 334 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | INQUIRER 990AM

GMA barred from travel

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED [illegible] VIEWS

FRAZIER'S GREATEST MOMENT A picture taken on March 8, 1971, shows US heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier standing over Muhammad Ali—self-styled "The Greatest"—in the fight called the "match of the century" at New York City's Madison Square Garden. Joe Frazier, who lost to Ali in the epic "Thrilla in Manila" on Oct. 1, 1975, died on Nov. 8 after a brief but brave battle with liver cancer. He was 67. AFP

BAIL OUT Lawyer Estelita Mendoza presents this photo of ex-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wearing a 3-kg steel brace during Tuesday's press conference in Makati City. Arroyo's lawyers are asking the government to let their client seek medical treatment abroad albeit in countries with no extradition treaty with the Philippines. JAMES DE JESUS

DOJ: No need for treatment overseas

By Marlon Ramos and Jerome Aning

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is facing several cases of plunder and electoral sabotage, both nonbailable offenses punishable by life imprisonment, may start looking for local medical specialists to take care of her reportedly rare bone ailment.

Invoking the primacy of national interest over individual rights, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday slammed the door on Arroyo's plan to seek medical treatment abroad.

"My order is a denial of the request for an allow-departure order (ADO)," De Lima announced at a news briefing.

She said she was not convinced that there was an exceptional reason or justification for the justice department to grant the request.

De Lima noted that the assessment of Health Secretary Enrique Ona of Arroyo's condition showed that "there is no compelling or immediate necessity to seek treatment abroad."

GMA BARRED A11

New witness surfaces in Ramgen's murder

By Mike Frialde and Penelope P. Endaya

A NEW witness has come forward to corroborate the initial testimony of a purported henchman who claimed to have plotted the killing of Ramgen Bautista with two of the victim's siblings and five other people.

Lloyd Comeda swore to his statement before Assistant City Prosecutor Leah Rosa yesterday afternoon, Chief Insp. Fernando Torred, head of the Parañaque police intelligence unit, said over the phone.

"The witness' statement matches the initial testimony of our other witnesses," Torred said. "He mentioned the names of the primary suspects who were involved in the plot and heard about the plan itself."

But while he took part in planning the hit on Ramgen, a scion of the Bautista-Revilla clan, Comeda backed out of the job, Torred said without elaborating.

He said Comeda's account basically reinforced the recollection of Noel Puzon, the primary witness in the case who had named the alleged plotters.

Ramgen (Ram Revilla in showbiz) was shot and stabbed dead in the family residence on Oct. 28.

According to Puzon's sworn statement, Ramgen's siblings, Ma. Ramona and Ra-

NEW WITNESS A10

DFA to cancel Mara's passport only if... / A10

If joke's on you, you're close to P-Noy

By Christine O. Avendaño

HOW CAN you tell if you are "close" to President Aquino?

It's when he often teases or plays a joke on you.

Mr. Aquino himself said so yesterday, citing as an example Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, whom he lavishly praised in a speech for improving the country's rice production.

"Proc," the President said, often got a ribbing from his group

IF JOKE'S A11

Cancer knocks out Smokin' Joe

PHILADELPHIA—He beat Muhammad Ali in the Fight of the Century, battled him nearly to the death in the Thrilla in Manila. Then Joe Frazier spent the rest of his life trying to fight his way out of Ali's shadow.

That was one fight Frazier never could win.

He was once a heavyweight champion, and a great one at that. Ali would say as much after Frazier knocked him down in the 15th round en route to becoming the first man to beat Ali at Madison Square Garden in March 1971.

But he bore the burden of being Ali's foil, and he paid the price. Bitter for years about the taunts his former nemesis once threw his way, Frazier only in recent times came to terms with what happened in the past and said he had forgiven Ali for everything he said.

Frazier, who died Monday night after a brief battle with liver cancer at the age of 67, will forever be linked to Ali. But no one in boxing would ever dream of anointing Ali as The Greatest unless he, too, was linked to Smokin' Joe.

"I will always remember Joe with respect and admiration," Ali said in a statement. "My sympathy goes out to his family

CANCER A12

Revillas' 'telenovela': Death, debts, demands

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE BACKSTORY of the crisis roiling the show-biz-and-politics Bautista-Revilla clan has all the high points of a telenovela.

The way a show biz insider told it, former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. was forced to build a house at BF Homes subdivision in Parañaque City for Genelyn Magsaysay and their friend because his children by the late Azucena Martel objected to the much-younger girlfriend's plan to move into the family mansion after their mother died.

Revilla Sr.'s children by Martel were convinced that letting Magsaysay transfer to the mansion in Imus, Cavite province, would desecrate their mother's memory, said the source who asked not to be named because of the delicate

REVILLAS' A10

Son of general murdered by rebs is new Army chief

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

THE SOLDIER-SON of a general treacherously killed by Moro separatist rebels in the infamous massacre at Mukkal, Sulu province, in October 1977 is taking over as new chief of the Philippine Army.

The youngest among 11 generals considered for the post, Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, 55, formally assumes command of the 80,000-strong Army in ceremonies at Fort Bonifacio today.

He was a freshman cadet at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) when his father, Brig. Gen. Teodulfo Bautista, and 33 other officers and men were gunned down by Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels in Patikul on Oct. 18, 1977.

An MNLF commander, Usman Sali, had lured the elder Bautista into a meeting in Patikul with a promise to talk about a ceasefire. To show his goodwill, the late general strolled for the meeting unarmed.

SON OF A10

BAUTISTA: We have been fighting too long. Too many have died, including my father.

Jackson's fans thrilled at doctor's conviction

LOS ANGELES—Outside the court, vernacular blared and fans danced to the shuddering groove of "Beat It" after the verdict was handed down.

Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray was found guilty on Monday over the King of Pop's 2009 death, triggering an explosion of joy and relief from his family and fans.

Crowds of supporters outside erupted as the verdict was announced, while minutes later Judge Michael Pastor ordered the 58-year-old medic handcuffed and remanded in custody, pending sentencing later this month.

JACKSON'S A11

NEWS
Aquino, Obama to chair Asean meet in Bali / A2

NEWS
Final push to put underground river on 7 wonders list / A5

WORLD
Greek, Italian PMs under pressure to quit / A25, A26

BUSINESS
Metro Pacific acquires Asian Hospital / B1

NEWS
Gov't vows action to rescue 3 kidnapped South Koreans / A8

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

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US-ASEAN SUMMIT

P-Noy, Obama to lead talks

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino will cochair with US President Barack Obama a meeting of Southeast Asian and US leaders at next week's 19th Association of Southeast Nations (Asean) Leaders' Summit in Indonesia, where the Philippines will unveil a "major initiative" for solving the Spratlys dispute, officials said yesterday.

The Philippines and the United States are the coordinators of the 3rd Asean-US dialogue scheduled for the second day of the three-day summit which will run from Nov. 17 to 19 in the resort island of Bali.

According to Foreign Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio, Mr. Aquino and Obama will be talking as they will have to discuss how to coordinate the Asean-US dialogue but the idea did not rule out a bilateral meeting between the two leaders.

"They have to talk about how they go about the meeting and how they will best ensure that the joint declaration that the leaders will come up with will enjoy the full support of everybody. It's important for both leaders to talk and discuss all these procedural substantive matters," Basilio told a press briefing in Malacañang.

Top of the agenda in the four-hour meeting next Friday is a joint action plan on science and technology cooperation, economic growth, among others, officials said.

AQUINO

OBAMA

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will be attending an Asean-UN dialogue, one of the subsidiary meetings at the Asean summit. The other subsidiary meetings are the Asean-China, Asean-Japan and Asean-Korea dialogues; the Asean+3 and the 6th East Asia Summit.

In Bali, Mr. Aquino will again push for the adoption of a framework to turn the Pearl Philippine Sea (South China Sea) into a Zone of Peace, Freedom, Friendship and Cooperation (ZoPFFC), which he introduced to the 18th Asean summit in Vietnam last year, Basilio said.

The Philippines proposed for a ZoPFFC framework outside segregating the disputed areas of the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) from the undisputed areas consistent with the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (Unclos).

Mr. Aquino has described the ZoPFFC as a modality to ensure that "what is ours is ours, and what is disputed, we can work towards joint cooperation."

The Spratlys, believed to sit on top of vast oil and gas reserves, are claimed in whole or part by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Basilio said the framework was the next step after the finalization of the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) toward achieving peace and prosperity in the region.

Basilio also underscored as point that foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario would propose a "major initiative" to bolster engage China in the dialogue to resolve the Spratlys dispute.

"I think the Secretary's proposal which will be initiated by the secretary will make it easier for China to come around and sit down and discuss the proposal (ZoPFFC) with us," she said.

"We want to see Asean lead, ship managing in the forthcoming initiative of the Philippines in this regard. Now is the time for Asean to take up the challenge of leading the way toward a peaceful resolution of the competing claims in the South China Sea by bringing in, you know, all the parties concerned," she said.

Asean groups Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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POEA delays deployment ban

THE PHILIPPINE Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) is considering deferring for three months the planned deployment ban on 41 countries that were cited or certified as unsafe for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), a ranking labor official said yesterday.

POEA administrator Carlos Cao Jr. said the agency's governing board was considering deferring the ban, which is to take effect this Nov. 27, after the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) formally asked for its postponement.

"We can now looking into the letter of request from the DFA for a 90-day deferment on the ban," Cao told reporters.

He said the POEA governing board would take into consideration the DFA request as it also consults with other government agencies and affected sectors.

The DFA asked the POEA to defer the deployment ban on 41 countries to avoid straining diplomatic relations with these nations.

Under the new Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, the DFA was mandated to certify countries to determine if they had enough protection for OFWs. Philippine Embassies in these countries would then issue certifications to the POEA.

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Call center for the deaf in the works

By Cynthia D. Baluma

CALL centers catering to the needs of an estimated three to four million deaf Filipinos would soon be available in the country.

This was disclosed by lingering Bayanihan party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy on Tuesday as she congratulated 20 individuals who completed a two-month Video Relay Service (VRS) Contact Training Program in Makati City.

Herrera-Dy is filing a bill that would make it mandatory for business establishments, particularly fast food chains, and government agencies to put up their own "call centers" for hearing- and speech-impaired persons or hire sign language interpreters to attend to them.

She said the success of the initial VRS training prompted her party-list group to pursue similar programs in local government units in the country.

"It is the right of individuals with visual and audiological impairment to be heard. Being able to communicate and be understood are human entitlements that must not be denied," Herrera-Dy said.

The VRS program includes sign language proficiency training and video relay computer program education, which are the main components of call center services for the deaf.

Herrera-Dy said VRS centers were flourishing in the United States and other countries with strong government programs for persons with disabilities.

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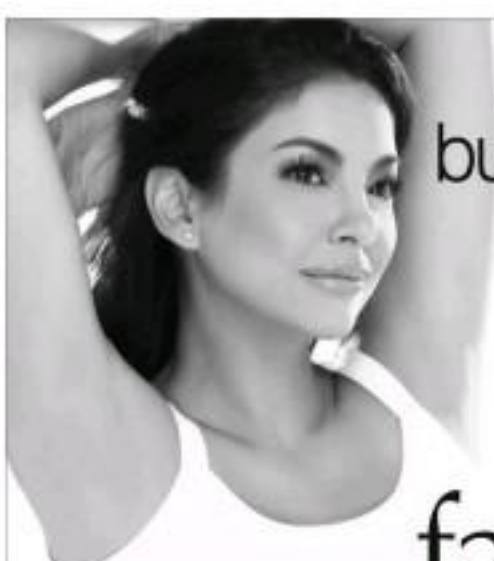

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BY LASERLIGHT

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10th ANNUAL CES NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Heritage Hotel Manila

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20th Anniversary of the Career Executive Service

ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

Nov. 4, 2011	Memorial and Thanksgiving Mass
Nov. 9-11, 2011	CES Annual Conference • Testimonial Dinner • Fellowship Night
Nov. 26, 2011	CES Oathtaking Day
Nov. 29, 2011	Thanksgiving Dinner

For conference details, please log on to: **cesboard.gov.ph**

MESSAGE

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MENSAHE

Isang malaki na pagbati sa **Career Executive Service Board (CESB)** at sa **National Union of Career Executive Service Officers, Inc. (NUCESO)** sa pagdiriwang ng kanilang **2011 Annual CES Conference**.

Ang tema ng taon at mainam na pagkilala sa ating Bansa ay tama na dangal ng mamamayang Pilipino, kung kaya't tinipagtutuunan ng ating administrasyon, sampu ng ating mga mamamayan, ang maging karapat-dapat sa pagtatagumpay ng ating bansa. Sa pamamagitan ng tuwang, dalisay ng pakikibahagi sa pagsisilbi ng pagkakaisa, ang tanayan sa tuwid na daan tungkulin ng bawat isa sa atin.

Mahalaga ang papel na ginagampanan ng ating mga lingkod bayan sa pagsugpo ng katiwalian at sa pagtatatag ng maginoong kaisipan para sa bayan. Pilipino. Pinaniniwalaan natin ang kahalagahan ng pagsugpo ng mga suliranin ng mga mamamayan sa pamamagitan ng mga programang pangkabuhayan, at sa pagtatatag ng mga proyektong pangkaunlaran. Ang tama nating tinitingnan ang mga ito ay magbibigay sa atin ng lakas at inspirasyon upang makamit ang mga adhikaing ito.

MANILA
09 Nobyembre 2011

BENIGNO C. AQUINO III

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President

MESSAGE

Congratulations to the Career Executive Service Board and the National Union of Career Executive Officers, Inc. as you celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Career Executive Service!

The CES, as an institution, is key to achieving good governance and national development. And in the hands of career executive officers are the important tools of building our nation and shaping the future of our citizens.

In whatever field in the civil service, a strong leadership is crucial to ensure that the policies, programs and projects of the executive department reach and improve the lives of Filipinos. Needless to say, hard work, dedication and integrity are important to achieve our dream of a safe, prosperous and peaceful society.

Even in the continuing challenge to uphold the values of professionalism and integrity in public service, and I join that this occasion only strengthens your commitment. Mahigpit pang tao sa inyong collaborative! Maraming salamat!

JEJOMAR C. BINAY

My warmest greetings to the National Union of Career Executive Service Officers (NUCESO) and to fellow members of the career executive service on this 20th anniversary of the founding of our institution.

As an welcome participant to our Annual Conference, the CESB brings to the fore the theme of parmamamayang tapat at wasto sa the standard of leadership that defines the board of public service CESO is expected to deliver. Pamamayang tapat at wasto at honest and competent leadership encapsulates our institution's raison d'être as well as emphasizes the role every individual CESO plays in realizing the Filipino people's dream of a united, just and prosperous nation.

May we continue to answer our commitment to public service and service our love for our country.

Thank you, CESB Team, on being kasangkabay ang magkapatid sa Service.

BERNARDO P. ABESAMIS
Chairman
Career Executive Service Board

Happy 20th anniversary our fellow CESOs!

It brings me great joy and pride to welcome everyone to this year's annual CES Conference. As a community of public leaders, I hope that we fully utilize the Conference as a platform for discussing critical governance issues of common concern, renewing ties and linkages, sharing and learning from our experiences and imparting our wisdom with our personal and collective journeys.

This year's Conference also provides us with a fitting venue to celebrate our continually successful ties with our partner with the Aquino administration's evident commitment to strengthen ourselves with the issuance of 138 Memorandum Orders 1 and 2 (the birth of several national agency associations of executives), the PAS re-classification of our eligibility and rank promotion, and the continuing expansion of our lifelong learning and leadership development programs.

All our accomplishments would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of everyone, including the CES Governing Board, NUCESO, the regional and national agency associations, the able and committed service and team of the CESB Secretariat, our institutional partners, our political leaders and most of all, YOU – the esteemed members of the CES community.

"We have miles to go before we sleep" (Frost) but in the Conference, let us take time to celebrate the miles we have covered thus far.

Thank you to all CES brotherhood and fellowship. More power to all CES members.

Thank you, CESO!

MARIA ANTHONETTE VELARDE-FALLENCE, CESO I
Executive Director
Career Executive Service Board

On the occasion of the 10th CES National Conference, we come together once again to celebrate our accomplishments.

Indeed, the NUCESO has made history in our country's successful conduct of its 1st national election of officers. We have likewise charted our course with the NUCESO Visions and Mission, highlighting our steadfast commitment to being partners of nation-building, counterparts of public governance, and champions of community transformation.

In 2011, our collaborative actions have enabled us to gain greater participation in the formulation of key decisions and significant legislation affecting the Philippine civil service. Our strength lies not only in our numbers but, more importantly, in each member's willingness to reach out and to become involved in steering governance towards the path of integrity and excellence.

This year's Convention will once again highlight our role in the pursuit of a transparent, accountable, and participative government through which the five pillars of President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino, III's Social Contract with the Filipino People can be more vigorously pursued.

I wish to congratulate the NUCESO for the relentless support and hard work that has become its trademark. Our collective effort has led us to this day of celebration, even as we look forward to a future of optimism and endless opportunities for the progress of the Philippines as a country and as a nation.

Mabuhay!

CESAR M. [illegible], CESO II
NUCESO President

20th CES ANNIVERSARY EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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[illegible], [illegible]
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[illegible], [illegible]
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[illegible], [illegible] B
Vice President for Visayas

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[illegible], [illegible]
Secretary

[illegible], [illegible]
Assistant Secretary

[illegible], [illegible] I, [illegible]
Treasurer

[illegible], [illegible] I, [illegible]
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Executive Director [illegible], [illegible] I, [illegible]
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TEXT PPUR TO 2861

Underground river in final push to make 7 wonders list

By DJ Yap

ONLY two days left for the world's resting capital to vote the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR) as one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature.

Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo on Tuesday called on all governors and mayors to push their countrymen into voting for the underground river to win one of only seven slots before the deadline on Nov. 11.

The Palawan wonder is competing with, among others, the Dead Sea, the Grand Canyon in the United States, the Great Barrier Reef of Australia and Papua New Guinea, Halong Bay of Vietnam and Italy's Stromboli.

Losing ground

The underground river made it to the top 10 in a recent ranking update in the contest website, but as of Tuesday the voting trend was going downward.

Filipinos may text in their vote by typing PPUR and sending it to 2861, or by logging on to the website, www.new7wonders.com.

Robredo, chair of the Inter-agency Task Force for the PPUR, a campaign created under Presidential Proclamation 102, said the "local government sectors should play a pivotal role in the final push to victory for the PPUR."

President Aquino had ordered national line agencies to launch a campaign urging every Filipino to vote online or via text messages for the underground river.

Robredo said the report about 190SD overall standing was encouraging, but he cautioned against Filipinos being complacent and noted that only seven would be chosen among the 10 finalists.

"Hence, there is a need to close ranks and demonstrate patriotism in order for our entry to get into the magic seven," he said in a statement.

"The help of our local government officials is very crucial at this critical juncture," he added.

In Puerto Princesa, campaigners for the PPUR led by Mayor Edward Hagedorn said they are "almost certain we will make it to the final seven."

Tens of thousands plastic fingers and sticker have mounted a text voting campaign that offers cash prizes as much as P2M millions to lucky voters.

According to its website, the New7Wonders of Nature campaign started in 2007, immediately following the successful drive to choose the man-made Official New 7 Wonders of the World.

From December 2007 to July 7, 2009, over 440 locations from more than 220 countries were nominated through a national qualification and eased to become one of the Top 77.

From the 77, the New7Wonders panel of experts supervised the selection of the 28 official candidates, which were announced on July 25, 2009.

The Official New7Wonders of Nature is now in its third and final phase, and an estimated one billion people worldwide will cast their vote for their chosen seven.

In alphabetical order, the New7Wonders foundation announced on its website the top 10 finalists at the following: the Dead Sea, the Grand Canyon, the Great Barrier Reef, Halong Bay, Jeita Grotto, Jeju Island, Komodo Island, Puerto Princesa Underground River, Iguazu Falls and Stromboli. No ranking was given.

The final seven will be proclaimed based on the total number of Internet and text votes they have received.

Kamoon Fitzgerald, head of communication for New7Wonders, however, stressed that the winning list could still change in the final seven standings.

"With millions of votes still set to come in, finalists who are not in today's top 10 could yet make it into the chosen 7," he said.

The first count indicating the provisional voting result will be announced at 10:07 p.m. (GMT or New 11:13 a.m. Nov. 12 in Manila) on new7wonders.com. With Jhesebeth B. Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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'Anti-epal' bill sure to pass–Sotto

By Christian V. Esguerra

SET ON the "anti-epal" bill being passed by the Senate next week.

"There's no doubt about it—it will be passed," Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III told Inquirer by phone yesterday.

"It's a good bill and I think majority, if not all, of the senators would support it," he said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago had filed Senate Bill No. 1967—An Act Prohibiting Public Officers from Claiming Credit through Signage Announcing a Public Works Project.

Sotto is confident the bill would have no serious opposition among his colleagues, saying "we're not into credit grabbing anyway."

The measure would punish public officials who splatter their names and faces on billboards announcing public works projects funded with taxpayers' money.

"If that name is to be known as the 'anti-epal bill,' referring to the colloquial terms for people who love to be in the spotlight (Unsapad) or are think-deemed and (mentalero (mulapet)).

"It's more of a problem at the local level," Sotto said. "In my case, I am honestly say I don't do it. I give out my (p)ictory documentation) fund to local executives and that's it. I don't and there is just my name on any projects in return. In fact, I don't encourage it at all."

(I) 1967 slaps a prison term of between six months and one year on government officials whose names or images are posted on "signage announcing a proposed or ongoing public works project."

The bill only allows for the name, image or logo of the local or national government agency handling the project to be on billboards. The measure is pending in committee.

Sotto said the bill would be formally tackled in January because the Senate would be in recess on the 2012 national budget for the rest of this year.

"It's not a difficult bill so it should pass by next year," he said. "I just don't know the sentiments of the members of the House of Representatives on this. But for the senators, there's no problem."

Santiago's bill drew widespread attention after the Inquirer published a story on it on Nov. 6. As of yesterday, the online story had been "shared" on Facebook at least 26,000 times, on top of 13,000 "recommendations."

The story also made the rounds of the microblogging site Twitter 1,220 times, and was featured on other sites such as LinkedIn, Reddit, Tumblr, Digg, StumbleUpon, Blogger and Delicious.

Comments on the bill were generally passionate and supportive. Many also expressed collective dismay over politicians gobbling credit for projects they never actually funded.

"I am in absolute agreement with this bill. It's the taxpayers' money and (it is) the politician's duty to provide such services. No need for a publicity grab," went one comment.

Read another: "A lot of major politicians and opportunist politicians aren't be happy with this bill. It's true the money comes from taxpayers... not self-serving, do-nothing, corrupt politicians."

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Gov't vows action to rescue kidnapped Sokors

MAGAPI CITY—The government has assured South Korea it will do all it can to ensure the safe recovery of three South Korean businessmen who have been abducted by a kidnap-for-ransom gang in Lanao del Sur.

Roxas, Secretary Albert del Rosario met with South Korean Ambassador Kee Myo-tae and relayed the "government's assurance that all appropriate assistance would be given" to rescue the three businessmen.

The government has even coordinated with the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which has agreed to help locate and rescue the foreigners from the criminal syndicate.

The Army confirmed that three South Koreans, who were initially reported to be missing, had indeed been kidnapped.

Col. Daniel Lucero, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade based in Lanao del Sur, said they have received reports that the group holding the foreigners, led by a certain "Negi," phoned friends of the South Koreans about three days ago and asked for ransom.

He said the other details of the conversation between the friends of Pic Seok-hong, Kim Nam-ok and Jo Soo-chol were not clear, except that the kidnappers wanted money.

Lucero said Negi's group had previously been linked to extortion and carjacking in Lanao del Sur.

The three South Koreans had apparently gone to Lanao del Sur to check out a mining investment opportunity.

Lucero said it was not clear yet where the victims were being held although there were reports they may be somewhere in near the Lake Lanao area here, or in the borders between Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

"We are intensifying our monitoring," Lucero said.

Lucero said the military was also coordinating with Muslim religious leaders and commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the two Lanao provinces for a concerted effort at rescuing the South Koreans.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said members of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (Ahjag) were working with their government counterparts to locate the South Koreans.

"There was a case in Lanao del Sur before when kidnap victims were rescued and the kidnappers were turned over by MILF Ahjag to the government," Jaafar said.

The three foreigners were in Lanao del Sur's Pook Ziganon de Oro on Oct. 31 reportedly to check out possibilities on mining deposits there.

A few days after their disappearance, staffers at the Manor Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City, where they were booked, were alarmed they had not returned and notified authorities about their missing guests.

In March 2006, armed men also kidnapped South Korean businessman Jin Sang-soo's Filipino companion in Lanao del Sur. They were freed two months later. With reports from Rachel Uriel, Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin Fernando, Inquirer Mindanao; Jerry E. Esplanada in Manila; and AP

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Military hunting 2 MILF leaders for Basilan attack

By John Aligada
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military has confirmed it was hunting down two—not just one—leading Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) leaders in Basilan suspected of being behind recent criminal and other atrocities on the island province.

Maj. Gen. Noel Coladilla, commander of the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Division, said that with Brig. Gen. Julius Amurao, the military was also going after Hadi Limudin, commander of the MILF's 114th Base Command.

He said the military was also after at least three Abu Sayyaf leaders—Radzmann Jamiri, Long Mahal and Parad Jiyahata —but this did not prove much of a problem because the military could deploy its forces against them anytime.

Coladilla said it was a different story with Amurao and Limudin because the MILF was currently in peace talks with the government and there were some mechanisms in place.

"We were directed to exercise restraint [on MILF] through the ceasefire mechanism so as to not to [have] the two against worst-case scenario," Coladilla said.

He said the military would only be providing assistance to the police when the arrest was [only] against Amurao and Limudin are served.

"It will be a joint police and military action with the police as the lead agency and the military supporting them," Coladilla said.

On Oct. 16, 19 soldiers were killed during a military operation against Amurao's group in Al-Barka town.

Amurao and his men were reported to have attacked a military patrol resulting in the deaths of the soldiers. Limudin is Amurao's commander.

The MILF said the military violated provisions of their cessation agreement when it failed to coordinate the serving of an arrest warrant against Amurao with them. Amurao was accused for the beheading of at least 10 soldiers in 2007.

Under the ceasefire agreement, the two sides should be served by the police and not the military, the MILF pointed out.

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Court bars Ligot couple from leaving

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU of Immigration has placed former military comptroller Jacinto Ligot and his wife Belinda under its hold departure list on the order of the Court of Tax Appeals.

In a two-page order, Immigration Associate Commissioner Abdullo Mangotara cited a Nov. 4 resolution of the CTA's second division that issued hold departure order (HDO) against the Ligots.

Mangotara ordered the bureau's airport operations and immigration regulations division to enforce the order. The agency's computer section was also ordered to update its hold departure list.

The CTA ordered the arrest of the couple on Oct. 31 for their alleged failure to file their income tax returns in 2002 and to report on other income they made during that year.

They couple posted bail on Nov. 2.

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Gov't plan to decongest Naia runway gains support

By Tina G. Santos

THE government's plan to decongest the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) runway will not only benefit tourists and trade, but will also generate jobs and economic development in the countryside, according to air executives Cebu Pacific, which expressed support for the proposal.

Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Blas Bonoa earlier backed plans to build a separate runway that would allow landing aircraft to immediately leave the runways, allowing more aircrafts to land and take-off.

If the plan pushes through, aircraft landing and takeoff at the Naia runways will rise from 40 to 48 per hour, Bonoa added.

At present, actual aircraft landing and takeoff at Naia is initiated at 40 movements per hour for commercial airlines. Private aircraft also compete for the use of the runway.

"The proposal will go a long way in decongesting Naia and Cebu Pacific fully supports this initiative," she tempsay said in a statement.

More flights

Cebu Pacific added that through Bonoa' plan, aircraft can take off much quicker after landing.

"Both the airlines and the public would benefit since more flights could be scheduled, giving the flying public more flights to choose from," the company said.

The air carrier also expressed support for various schemes of measures, including the transfer of aviation schools and general aviation activities of the implementation of airport diverting; and the upgrading of key airport service roads to allow night flights.

According to CEB, aviation schools and general aviation aircraft currently use much of the airport's capacity.

"Carriers, yes, for instance, carry one passenger, if at all, as compared to hundreds on a commercial plane, and yet we up 17 percent of Naia's capacity annually," CEB said, adding that the three year period for their transfer should be shortened.

The implementation of airport diverting (the specific lanes allotted in an airline to take off and land) will also ease congestion and maximize airport use and aircraft movements, the airline company said.

The installation of night flight capability equipment in provincial airports, meanwhile, would mean that airlines need not cram their schedules during the day, and diversion help prevent competition, CEB added.

"Cebuana, for instance, cannot host flights after sunset. The same with Iloilo, Legazpi, and Bacolod, CEB said. This would allow passengers to choose their time of travel and not be limited to day flights," CEB explained.

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New witness surfaces in Ramgen's murder

From page A1

men Joseph (R.I. Barrios, 21 and, 18 years old, respectively, is monetarily the killing and caught the interest of John Michael Nerves (not Alias, as earlier reported) and Ray Francis Salazar for the hit.

At least three others are being sought by authorities—Glenn Victor Nevado de la Cruz and one alias Bryan.

100-percent sure

Chief Insp. Enrique Ta, the Pandacan police head investigator, said Ramgen's personal assistant, Brandelo Augustin, presented a supplemental affidavit that covered the motive behind the crime.

The document is the basis of the police theory that Ramgen was killed over financial issues on the family's investments.

In sponsored settlement in the case holding despite questions on the witnesses' credibility.

Asked how certain he was in pinning the crime on the suspects, he replied: "One hundred percent."

"We are consulting by our investigative. They did it."

He described Gonzales as among the people who told of Board "to kill Ramgen."

In also said the scheduled preliminary investigation on Gideon and Hector did not push through yesterday after most because their lawyer did not show up.

Prosecutor Reina Ines set the investigation for today at 2 p.m., according to Ta.

Deep hatred

Also yesterday, the police investigators submitted to authorities Ramgen's death certificate and autopsy report, which were prepared by forensic analyst of the Criminal Bureau of Investigation.

The report stated that Ramgen had 18 stab wounds in various parts of the body, the most fatal of which was in the left side of the chest that severed the heart.

Dr. Artist Ferrer, head of the NBI medico-legal division, said the autopsy on Ramgen's body showed deep hatred for the victim for his attackers, who repeatedly stabbed him and shot him once to ensure the kill.

The wounds killed the victim in two minutes, he said.

Ferrer also noted a gunshot wound in the right side of the chest, which was supposed to ensure the victim's death as he was still presumably moving after he was repeatedly stabbed.

Motion denied

Most on the bullet recovered from Ramgen could have been from a pillow used to muffle the sound of gunfire, Ferrer said.

A source from the prosecutor's office told the Inquirer that lawyer Dennis Manansal's omnibus motion for R20 misdemeanor had been "denied."

"Otherwise, Barrios would have been freed by now from his detention cell," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to discuss the case with reporters.

Manansal filed last week the omnibus motion for R20 misdemeanor offense. He and the client's arrest on Nov. 1 was without benefit of a warrant and there's no "illegal."

But Task Force Ramgen member SI and Tecson said the arrest was valid under the principle of "hot pursuit."

Manansal was present during the raffle of R30 murder and frustrated murder cases in Judge Fernando L. Makinano of Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court Branch 274.

The raffle was held in the absence of Municipal Executive Judge Amelita Tolentino-Villaluna.

Manansal declined to make any comment despite persistent requests from reporters.

RJ is charged with the murder of his brother Ramgen, and the accused is facing Senate hearing on Nov. 16 at the Senate.

The case was docketed as Cases No. 11-3190 and 11-3179.

Muntinlupa RTC Branch 274, then headed by Judge and now Court of Appeals Associate Judge Amelita Tolentino, issued the Malacañang prosecutor case in 1981.

Makinano was assigned to Davao, Leyte province, before he took over Tolentino's position in 2003.

The assignment has been cited by Sen. JV.

VISIT FROM GRANDPA Lyn Madrigal, grandmother of Ramon Joseph "RJ" Barrios, drops her grandson's hand through the bars at the Paranaque City Jail on Tuesday. RJ, a suspect in a killing, is photographed. LYNDON ON

DFA to cancel Mara's passport only if...

Kitill, Hernandez, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, remember said the issuance of an arrest warrant by Ms. Ramona "Mona" Bautista in connection with, let's say, another Pangasinan municipality would prompt the DFA to cancel her passport or seek Interpol assistance to bring her back to the country.

Dir. Gen. A. Ramona Bautista in Hong Kong and purportedly on the run, evading criminal charges by police and prosecutors.

"One thing that will prompt us to cancel her passport is that if there's a fugitive from justice and there's a warrant for her arrest," Hernandez said in an interview after a briefing in Malacañang.

Other conditions for the cancellation of Bautista's passport would be her conviction by a court, or a finding that her passport had been fraudulently issued or tampered with, he said.

If and when a court issues a warrant for her arrest, the DFA may also facilitate any request by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to the Interpol to bring Bautista back to the country, Hernandez said.

"We can ask the Interpol to help in bringing her back as the Philippines ranks all the documentation route. The DOJ, I suppose, have to do this. It's agency have to do this. If they want to request that he be tested, they can come to us," he said, confirming that there had been instances in the past when Interpol brought back Filipinos from abroad at the government's request.

Legal assistance

"What is necessary is the court order and warrant of arrest," he added.

Hernandez said the DFA could also ask her country of destination, say Turkey, to provide legal assistance in bringing her back to the country, and the Philippine government could reciprocate thereby extending the same to Turkey.

"We can also request legal assistance on the basis of a court order," he said, adding that it would be easier to do that if the Philippines had an extradition treaty with Turkey.

"The mechanism is already there," Hernandez said.

He said there had so far been no communication from Pangasa Secretary Albert del Rosario on the case.

NBI request

NBI Director Magtanggol Gatdula said he had sent a request to the Interpol office based in Ankara, Turkey, for Bautista's location it might have on Ramona.

Gatdula counted the request of the NBI Interpol through the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime addressed to the Ankara Interpol.

Gatdula in the request for the administrative confirmation of Ramona's arrest in Istanbul, where she was said to have been booked, as well as her immigration status in Turkey.

"We can only request information. We cannot go there by ourselves in this point," Gatdula said. He however, he said he is waiting for a response and the issuance of an arrest warrant against her before we can ask the Turkish to assist in the "red notice" list."

Reports from TJ Burgonio and Inquirer's Archivale

Revillas' 'telenovela': Death, debts, demands

From page A1

nament of the subject.

Mayor died at 64 on May 31, 1998, shortly after Revilla Jr. won his second term in the Senate. At that time, her sons Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., now a senator, had also won the governorship of Cavite, and Strike, would be the provincial board.

The triple victories of her husband and sons re "overwhelmed and excited" her that her blood pressure rose, leading to a fatal heart attack, Revilla Jr.'s sister Francisco was quoted as saying in that time.

Feeling entitled

Magsaysay was then in law his 20s. Her eldest child, Ramon Bautista, who was killed at 23 on Oct. 28, was then only 19.

Revilla Jr. and his siblings considered Magsaysay's wish to transfer to the latter mansion "unjust and selfishness," the source told the Inquirer yesterday.

"They emerged over Genelyn's sense of entitlement. She was very insistent on becoming the next matriarch," the source said.

In an attempt at a compromise, Revilla Jr. had the house built for Magsaysay and their inter-children in Phase 6-A of Ilo Homes. The two-story structure landed it now the humble begun to the next, but Magsaysay found it difficult to accept that she was living in a middle-class house that was a far cry from the mansion she longed for, the source said.

If Magsaysay felt antagonism toward Revilla Jr.'s children by Marial, the feeling was mutual.

Attitude problem

"The older children complained that Genelyn had an attitude problem. And even then, she was already a spendthrift. She was always asking for money," the source said.

In one of Magsaysay's posts on Facebook, she insulted unnamed parties for considering her a "parasite."

She also lamented that her children's paternal relatives appeared unsympathetic to her family's financial woes.

The source quoted Revilla Jr.'s children by Marial as saying that among their father's numerous girlfriends, Magsaysay had distinguished herself by continually asking for money.

During the man's incarceration at in a meeting, it was a well-known fact among Senate inmates that he provided for girlfriends entitled to state small businesses like beauty parlors and sari-sari (variety) stores.

'Kabuhayan' package

The insiders finally called this form of assistance "kabuhayan (livelihood) package," as it was supposed to enable the women to become financially independent in the years of her life's death.

It was in this context that Magsaysay's four sisters business failed to raise all or the simply close to stay dependent on Revilla Jr.

What became clear, the source said, was that the older children's objection to his purported retirement demand for money.

"But while [Marial's] children disliked Genelyn, they adored Bong[sic]," the source said, "So you really close to Bong's sons Jolo and Jiyan because they were almost the same age."

Reports of Magsaysay's alleged scandalous gems covered her debts did not endear the older children, the source said, adding:

"In it is, they are shouldering all of Genelyn's expenses. She does not work and only demands more in financial support."

Brother in the House

Another phrase with their bayonets, Rep. Rodolfo Magsaysay of the party-list group AHC (Alliance of Volunteer Educators) yesterday said he and his family were backing Genelyn Magsaysay, his half-sister.

"I will not intervene in the case. But we are fully supporting her," he said.

The lawmaker adamantly denied having had a hand in the departure of Ramona Bautista, another of his half-sister's children were said a conspirator in Ramgen's murder, for which Bautista and Ramgen the night of Nov. 1.

He said that while he was backing Genelyn Magsaysay and her family, he would not go to the extent of breaking the law in the process.

"I'm opposed to everybody not to prejudge the case until all evidence and all sides have been aired," the lawmaker said. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Son of general murdered by Moro rebels is new Army chief

From page A1

He was dead to death.

Only one soldier survived the massacre.

When Emmanuel graduated from the PMA in 1980—the seventh son of 10, in his class—he readily asked to be assigned to Jolo with the 1st Infantry Division, the unit his father commanded before his death.

But his request was denied and, in a compromise, was reassigned to another province in Mindoro, Mindanao—Lanao del Sur.

In his military career, the young Bautista had been assigned to various posts around the country—but never in Jolo.

Peace as Aquino concern

Achieving peace with rebels appears to be a focus in Bautista's appointment by President Aquino as new Army chief.

Announcing Mr. Aquino's choice yesterday, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said the President expected Bautista to reorient the Army into "a force for the maintenance of peace."

"[Bautista's] record has been exemplary, both in the field and in staff positions. Bautista has been decorated seven times in combat," Valte said in a statement.

Most notably, in his skirmish in Pikit, Maguindanao, he was awarded the Bayanihan Medal.

Blueprint to win peace

Bautista shepherded the development of the plan from its conceptualization to implementation, according to Valte.

"The plan involves intervention approaches and paradigm shifts and is now the blueprint of the AFP in winning the peace," she said.

Valte said the President believed Bautista would pursue the plan to "whole-of-nation" the Army to be a force for the maintenance of peace."

The military core Optia Bayanihan shifts the focus of the counterinsurgency strategy from traditional combat operations to "development activities," while also giving more focus to human rights concerns.

Need for peace

"We have been fighting for too long. Too many have died. The children include my Jr. they. How many more will suffer?" Bautista said in an interview with the Inquirer in April. "We have an obligation to end it. We the price because we owe it to those who came before us, like my father. We owe it to our people, we owe it to ourselves."

"My own father was killed trying to reach out. If I am able to overcome it, who can overcome me?" he said then.

In a statement, the Army described Bautista as a "seasoned combat officer who has served on the front lines as a Scout Ranger" and is a "well-rounded officer."

"The Philippine Army welcomes the appointment of a highly respected and credible leader who has served in several superiors as a frontline leader and as a staff officer in all levels of command will surely make the difference," said the Army spokesperson, Maj. Harold Cabunoc.

Youngest of the group

Bautista was the youngest of the generals who were considered to succeed Gen. Ricardo Gen. Gerina, the retiring Army chief.

Most of the current infantry division commanders were his upperclassmen in the PMA, except for Brig. Gen. Noel Aedo, with 82 commanding, who was his classmate in PMA.

Before he was named Army chief, Bautista had been commander of the 3rd Infantry Division based in Capas, province in Tarlac, for only a little over six months.

He, however, did not see his being a junior officer as an issue, pointing out that there had been many instances when officers surpassed their upperclassmen in terms of assignments.

"But the Army is a professional organization. We have come a long way and we follow the chain of command. There is nothing new to the Army," Bautista said in a brief interview yesterday.

"It's an honor to have been designated as commanding general. It is an opportunity and I take it as a challenge to do good for the Army," he added.

The only way

Bautista's appointment came amid calls for an all-out war against Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which is leading the killing of 19 soldiers last month in Al-Barka, Basilan.

As deputy chief of staff for operations, Bautista spearheaded the crafting of the administration's Bayanihan strategy.

As far as military operations go, President Aquino said, "people-centered approach" while recognizing that fighting some parts is not just a military concern but calls for a "whole-of-nation approach."

The campaign emphasis on soldiers than peace talks with communist and separatist rebels are the only way to end the conflict.

Communist rebels, however, say Bayanihan is an offensive campaign that violates the truce's Optia Bantay Laya, which they blamed for the killing of unarmed soldiers.

Ace of Scouters

As a lieutenant, Bautista served in Mindanao as a platoon leader of the 24th Infantry Battalion from 1981 to 1982. He also saw action in the Visayas as the leader of the 7th Scout Ranger Company from 1987 to 1988.

He distinguished himself as the commander of the 702nd Brigade based in Pikit, North Cotabato province. He is known for his role in the capture of Commander Abu Sayyaf Group leader Khadaffy Janjalani in Basilan in 2006.

He was also a graduate of a war-fighting course at the Joint Forces Staff College in Virginia, USA, and a tennis course in New Zealand. He has a master's degree in business administration from the University of the Philippines.

Bautista is married to Bernadette Roxas, daughter of a former Supreme Court associate justice, and they have a son.

AQUINO ON FOOD SECURITY

'Organic farming is way to go'

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—Not a country that sees scenes like hoarded vegetables in Asia, says the Philippines hopes to produce organically grown items for itself and even export some?

For President Aquino and Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, the answer is yes.

To them, organic agriculture is the way of the future not only to address hunger but also to sustain health, the environment and develop the country's niche in the growing world market for organic agri-industries.

Both deputies say they would welcome hardhead chains to include a certain scheme of vegetables in their food products as suggested by farmer Gov Mercy Sagi?

Saying it is unsolicited to cultivate poverty, mitigate hunger and address the growing food requirements of a forthcoming population, both deputies say Thursday's meeting is the support of his administration to the pursuit of organic agriculture.

Addressing delegates to the 6th National Organic Agriculture Conference at the Aquino Center in Luisita here, Mr Aquino promised to implement Republic Act No. 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 "to save Juan dela Cruz from the pangs of hunger."

He also said that this is part of the Philippine Development Plan of 2011-2016, favoring organic as agriculture, but said, would withdraw after publicity issues in food production as well as environmental concerns and climate mitigation.

According to him, the implementing rules of RA 10068 had been drafted and he assured the conference delegates that the government would use its resources to facilitate the shift to organic agriculture.

The President said he sees the high potential of organically grown commodities in the world's market which would cost $60 billion ($70 billion in 2012).

He encouraged local governments to support endeavors in this direction to find the money he said, would get a share in the market and develop domestic/the food commodities.

Later, Alcala told a press briefing that the country is bent on going organic. "This is the future of Philippine agriculture," he said as he also noted the vast potential of organically grown products.

He said he was confident the country can meet the more organic farming as republican and voracious are exhausted and the right balance of supply and demand is met.

While organically grown food commodities are making a sweep in the more developed countries, these are yet to catch on Filipinos, he said.

Cost is one factor as organically grown food items are more expensive because production cost is higher than those grown with commercial chemically formulated fertilizers, he said.

He said the only way to lower production cost is for farmers to learn to process their own organic fertilizers and be there to shift to organic agriculture.

If there are more organic vegetables in the market, prices will go down, he added.

Political parties hail Nepal pact, says Joe de V

THE INTERNATIONAL Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) hailed yesterday as a "historic breakthrough" the agreement among Nepal's four political parties to integrate the Maoist rebel fighters into the Nepalese Armed Forces.

Iloilo Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr., chairman of the Philippines, Cochair Chung Iaryong of Korea, Sen. Shahbuddin Hossain Saeed of Pakistan, and Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, cited the peace accord in a joint statement.

"There is still an unfinished for disbanding and a negotiated political settlement are a mandate for transforming conflicts in Asia and various parts of the world," the statement said.

They declared that the "four Nepalese parties chaired by, all members of ICAPP, founded in Manila in September 2000, presided on Asian solution to an Asian problem to achieve amicable reconciliation."

Under the peace pact, 6,500 Maoist fighters will be integrated into the Nepalese Armed Forces while the rest will be given various cash settlements.

De Venecia recalled the success of the "Cambodian model" in integrating even the murderous Khmer Rouge into the Cambodian Army and hopes of 7,000 of More National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels in the Philippine Armed Forces.

One of the last acts of then outgoing President Fidel V Ramos and first outgoing Speaker De Venecia was to provide congressional appropriations for the successful integration of 7,500 MNLF fighters into the Philippine Army following the 1996 JUNDAF peace agreement.

P-Noy: PH has 100-day rice supply

By Norman Bordadora

TARLAC CITY—President Aquino yesterday announced that the country had an adequate supply of rice—good for 100 days—despite the strong typhoons that damaged crops in Luzon in the past months.

In his speech before the 8th National Organic Agriculture Conference at the Hacienda Luisita, President Aquino disclosed that the Philippines' rice supply was so good that it already has been considering exporting to other countries.

"Actuall yan [with, whenever Department of Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala] sends me numbers, I compute the figures and tell him, 'Proceso, I think we can already afford to export,'" President Aquino said in jest.

"He said, 'There are still exported typhoons. Some other time, perhaps,'" the Aquino added.

President Aquino said private traders already bought the bulk of the damaged rice banked rice that the government intended to buy.

The government had allowed P1 billion to buy damaged palay at P11 per kilo to the woks of typhoons "Pedring" and "Quiel" that ravaged rice-producing provinces in the past two months.

"But P1 billion was to buy palay at P11 per kilo and we can only buy 20 percent of the damaged rice to help the farmers who lost their capital," President Aquino said.

"Before we could even buy, private traders had reportedly bought most of it. They even bought at P14 per kilo. What's left for the government is buy over 20 percent of the 20 percent that we intended to buy," he added.

President Aquino said he expects a 100-day supply of rice at 34,000 metric tons per day.

"I expect that by January, of course including this Christmas in December, we would really have enough rice," President Aquino said.

Croc expert coming to measure 'Lolong'

By Jeoffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

BUNAWAN, CITY—A foreign crocodile expert is arriving on Wednesday to measure "Lolong," the one-ton crocodile captured recently in the Agusan marsh.

Belinda Asis-Borde, media relations coordinator of Bunawan town in Agusan del Sur, where Lolong is currently housed, told the Inquirer that Dr. Adam Britton, a zoologist, is arriving a 10 a.m. on the town Center for National Geographic already in the country.

Britton was commissioned in 2008 by the Guinness World Records to measure "Gustus," southwater crocodile captured in Australia. Gustus measured 5.48 meters (17 feet, 11.75 inches) and is the current world record holder as the largest crocodile in captivity.

Lonnie have measured Lolong at 6.4 meters (21 feet).

"Britton was hired by NatGeo documentary but there's a big possibility the details they will get from Lolong will also be used by crocodile researchers if Lolong is the world's biggest croc," she said.

Asis-Borde said the Bunawan team has been in Bunawan since Oct. 31. Filming Lolong as well as the Agusan marsh.

She said Lolong last ate on Nov. 2 when he gulped an 20 kilos of pork.

"He eats every seven days. He likes pork rather than fresh chicken," she said.

At the same time, people continue to come to Bunawan's wildlife sanctuary (not compound) to see Lolong.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 9 (Wednesday)
Feast: Proper
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ps 99:3, 4, 5-6, 8, 11
The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High.

1st Reading: Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

The man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple and I saw water coming out from the threshold of the Temple and flowing eastwards. The Temple faced the east and the water flowed from the south side of the Temple, from the south side of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing the east and there, I saw the stream coming from the south side. He said to me, "This water goes on the east, down to the lowland, and when it flows into the sea of foul-smelling water, this, too will become wholesome. Wherever the river flows, swarms of creatures will live in it, fish will be plentiful and the sea water will become fresh. Where we it flows, life will abound. Near the river on both banks there will grow all kinds of fruit trees with foliage that will not wither and fruit that will never fail, each month they will bear a fresh crop because the water comes from the Temple. The fruit will be good to eat and the leaves will be used for healing.

Gospel: Jn 2:13-22

As the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple court he found merchants selling oxen, sheep and doves, and money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he threw them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep; he scattered the money of the changers and overturned their tables, and to the dove-sellers he said, "Take all this away and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: Zeal for your House devours me as a fire. The Jews then questioned him, "Where are the miracles to show which give you the right to do this?" And Jesus replied, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then replied, "The building of this temple has already taken 46 years, and you will raise it up in three days!" Actually, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body. Only when he had risen from the dead did his disciples remember these words; then they believed both the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken.

Reflection:

God's temple is holy, and you are the temple. (1 Cor 3:17) But what happened to the temple? What happened to our bodies? There must be a need for a thorough cleansing of the temple contaminated by the world's offering of hatred, greed, pride, hunger for power and all other elements creating a culture of death. If we are to be a living sign of God's temple here on earth, it is but proper that we oppose our bodies to the evils that mention holiness? Allow yourself to be exposed to the Word, to the Eucharist, to the building of communities in faith, fellowship and sharing of food, to works of mercy and compassion. No better way to become creatures of God who is pure justice to our living temples of his Love!

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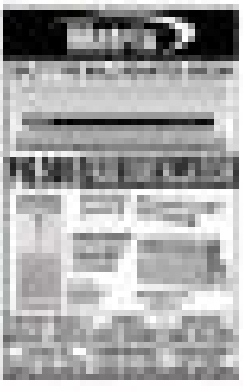

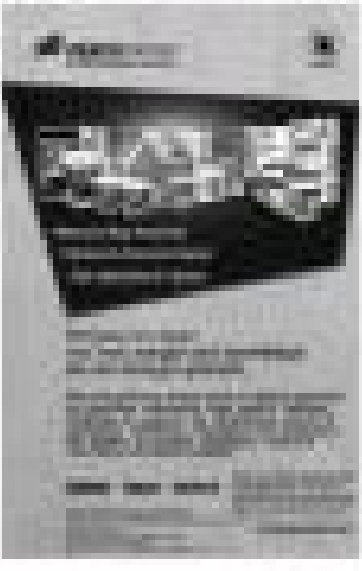

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OPINION

On the watch list

EDITORIAL

AH, HOW the tables are turned. In June 2010, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved the issuance by Justice Secretary Alberto Agra of a circular governing the department's issuances and implementation of hold-departure orders, watch-list orders and allow-departure orders. Section 2.b of the circular specifically says a watch-list order may be issued by the DOJ "against the respondent, irrespective of nationality, in criminal cases pending preliminary investigation, petition for review, or motion for reconsideration before the Department of Justice or any of its provincial or city prosecution offices."

Arroyo must now be eating giving her ingestionize to that otherwise innocuous circular. Just over a year later, her own name is on a DOJ watch list, placed there by incumbent Secretary Leila de Lima in the wake of several cases of plunder and graft that have been filed against Arroyo, plus a poll fraud case relating to the May 2007 elections that she and her husband, former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, also face. These cases all happen to be under preliminary investigation at the DOJ, which puts the department in solid legal ground, based on the Arroyo administration's own circular, to inscribe her name on the watch-list.

To hear it from Arroyo lawyer Raul Lambino, however, there is nothing more base or foul—"dangerously evil," in his overconfident phrase—than the DOJ watch list. "We believe that the evil called the watch-list order of the DOJ secretary, which has dangerous effects far greater than a hold-departure order issued by the regular courts, would still be issued over it if De Lima will allow the former president to leave," Lambino said, referring to Arroyo's request for travel clearance from the Aquino administration to seek medical treatment abroad. "Such a dangerous evil must be addressed now and for all for the sake of every individual in the country. Unless and until the Supreme Court rules on this fundamental issue, everyone will be at the mercy of De Lima's whim and caprices."

So, in Arroyo's time, it was par for the course to issue a watch-list order. This time, when the line has unexpectedly boomeranged on her, it has morphed into a "dangerous evil" with "dangerous effects," threatening the very life, liberty and happiness of every citizen of the republic. Lambino's solution would hold more merit if there was a smidgen of acknowledgment there that Arroyo's pending legal troubles do place her squarely within the sights of the very regulation she herself had promulgated.

There might no longer be any question that Arroyo is sick and requires urgent medical treatment. There remains, however, the question of whether it's worth the risk to let her fly out of the country and see justice subverted instead when she flees the multiple charges awaiting her here. Arroyo and her camp must forgive the public's cynicism in this matter. The former president has not exactly been a model of candor and sincerity in her 10-year tenure in Malacañang, and even beyond, when she used her still-considerable political clout and universal influence to dictate, dissemble, stall and frustrate questions and investigations into her scandal-plagued administration. Truthfulness is a virtue that seems to have long fled the Arroyo character, from her broken promise not to run for reelection, to the unresolved "Hello, Garci" affair, to 2ZH and its sordid by-products of kidnapping and bribery, to the helicopter rents that her husband could not even be bothered to testify about in person, preferring rather to mock the public's credulity by claiming an ill, for the second time, his pony of a brother as the bill guy.

Even Arroyo's allies know any assurances from her that she would come back and face the music won't hold any water anymore with a largely skeptical country, hence their appeal to absolutely senseless to justify her requests. No doctor in this country, they insist, is good enough to treat her bone disorder—a condescension that has earned them the ire of the Philippine Medical Association, which, while conceding that Arroyo has as much right as any patient to choose her own doctor, also says the country's top bone specialists are as good as anyone whom Arroyo could tap abroad.

That she has been afflicted by what looks like a serious illness is not Arroyo's fault. But that she has to labor under the impression that she's not above using her condition to escape accountability and the reach of justice—sadly, Arroyo has no one to blame but herself.

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'Occupy Wall Street'

COMMENTARY

Dennis Murphy

MY SISTER and I went to Wall Street toward the end of September on an overcast day that threatened rain. It seemed an obscure hour for business when I walked for a summer after my freshman year of high school. When we arrived at the head of that narrow street, where the sun seldom shines because it is very narrow and bordered by skyscrapers, we noticed that the police had prepared for a protest march. They had divided the street into squares with portable metal fences resembling the cattle pens seen in the old Westerns, the wooden corrals where cowboys left their steers after the long drives across the plains.

Shortly joined from a consolidated ribbon mixer pipe and debited to base of the New York Stock Exchange, feeding it a steady upper cause. A white police van stood at the intersection of Nassau and Wall Streets to carry off any protestors that might be arrested. There were about 200 gloomy, bored policemen standing around. A big man in a plaid shirt and jeans preached about the needs of clearing fertilizers to one another. So one listened to him, except my sister and me. Afterwards he came over and shook hands and wished us a good day.

Then, all at once, the rain and the protesters arrived. Between 200 and 300 people marched along the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street. Almost as many policemen and police-women walked with them. They went a few blocks toward the East River and then came back along the sidewalk where we stood. They had drums and shouted slogans, but it was hard to make much noise in such a cavernous and dimensioned place. The marchers were mostly young, white males and they looked somewhat scruffy, I thought. They looked, to be honest, like the unemployed young men you might see playing basketball in the parks on weekday afternoons, while most of the city was at work. This was our first glimpse of the Occupy Wall Street group; it was one of their first marches.

The slogans they had on their banners and those they shouted were simplistic: "Close all the Banks," "The Banks are Bad; to Bond Your Money," "Join us," "Occupy Wall Street for a Day, for a Week," "Wake Up." The police had them back toward Broadway and Trinity Church and then they went gone. Wall Street went about its business as usual.

The next day the New York Times reported that the Dow Jones and Standard and Poor indices showed gains.

A month later the "Occupy Wall Street" group had mushroomed into a worldwide phenomenon. On Oct. 15 I went with my wife Helen to the park where the protesters stay which is adjacent to Broadway. The new encampment building covers over the park which is about the size of a football field. It was packed with 2,000 to 3,000 men and women, young and old, rich and poor, Afro-Americans, Hispanics, Caucasians and others and college and non-college educated people. Another Occupy Wall Street group was protesting in Times Square. The policemen were no longer bored. There were similar protests in 70 American cities, Asia, Europe and Australia.

We met a Hispanic woman who described herself as an "ordinary worker," who told us she came to the park every day to watch over her 17-year-old daughter who spent day and night at the park when she wasn't in school. The manager of the Occupy Wall Street people was elected...she said, about banks and mortgages, but it was reported in anger and that bothered her. It underscored the main problem that we are being treated unfairly. The poor get poorer, the rich get richer. We need to come together to have a voice in how decisions are made." It is not just drawn 47 percent of Americans agree with her.

The Occupy Wall Street people are able to focus people's attention on issues that transcend race, class and education. In this case it is the wrongdoing of the finance industry which of the country America's poor or middle class. Secondly, there is a great deal of basic political and economic education in the meetings and actions of the movement. People meet people of other backgrounds; their talk and come to appreciate some another's problems. They have different solutions and are free to agree or disagree.

The mood in the park on Oct. 15 was upbeat. People debated, sang and danced. Some walked around holding signs. The group seemed open to many solutions, including credit unions, that old staple of Church social action in the Philippines. We heard people debate the pros and cons of climate change, the relationship between unions and capitalism, and the usefulness of Dr. Seuss's books. We didn't meet Obama.

Young Afro-Americans were often the voice of moderation in these discussions. One of them, for example, told the Caucasian to address, "We still deal with our problems with the police who have been and even and with the police we have boys and men and with the police who have been. We don't need Obama." We didn't hear anyone talk about changing the system, but of making it work for the good of all.

We found the building where I had worked years ago. There is still no marker recalling the summer there. I operated a dirty machine which ran off the pages of the bulky yearly text, machines used in our hospitals. Now the same work is done by personal copiers the size of a desk.

Whether Occupy Wall Street is needed or not in the Philippines remains to be seen. We surely need the ability to bring the very poor workers and better-off middle-class people together. We can also use its great emphasis on education.

Dennis Murphy works with the Jesuit Post Novitiate. His email address is spsphil@aol.net.

Dividends

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BIG PICTURE Aborot Jr. is hard at work preparing an impeachment complaint against P-Noy, his will. In his case as soon as Congress resumes its session. He is doing so, he says, because P-Noy violated the Constitution when he agreed to give the Moro Islamic Liberation Front P5 million for a leadership training program and the Moro People's Army P11 million for volunteers it is they are going to use it for.

Specifically, he says, P-Noy violated an article of the Constitution that says "no money shall be paid out of the Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law." He finds it the strangest thing that government should justify this in terms of fulfilling a commitment made by the previous administration. "It is ruinous that despite the apparent abuse, acts of corruption Aquino's administration is to instigate the allegedly anomalous transactions entered into by the previous administration, he readily complied with this commitment which is patently illegal."

This notion is not as fringe as it seems. The people who are still shouting their heads off for "all-out war" against the MILF have seized on it like a terrier on a stranger's leg and will not let go. That includes several bishops who have preached the unjustness of it, an affront to God and man, but especially of man in the form of the soldiers who were killed in Al Barka. P-Noy hasn't just failed to punish the killers, their pitch goes, he has managed to reward them. That pitch a lower pitch, particularly in made on AM radio, but it has gotten its share of sympathetic listeners.

Close by, it's not just the rants. P-Noy's detractors are trying to exploit. If it were merely so, then they would be matched (as you intended) by the ire Baba reserves Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her husband threw away quite apart from style, in her nine years of benighted rule. It's the apparent betrayal the rants constitute against which the opposition is having trouble hit. But there's really the easiest thing in the world to put down.

At the very least, of course government may not pay out public money other than for an appropriation made by law. But the P5 million and P11 million are perfectly well within an appropriation made by law. That is the power of the MILF. That is why we have a Peace Commission. That is why we have peace talks with the MILF. Last I looked, those talks have not been broken, suspended, or stopped. The killings of the soldiers, which resulted from the misunderstood administration of a military group, as has become clear by now, have not made the talks with the MILF in particular, less imperative, it has made them more so.

Paul Aborot or, if bothered to do some research, they would have discovered the concept of "peace dividend," which is a time-honored tradition in peace negotiations. The idea is as inspired as it is simple. You succeed in forging peace, you lessen the cost of war. To more specifically, you succeed in forging peace in Mindanao, you will be able to reduce the budget for war, you reduce the fortune you waste on arms or the budget of the military which has a way of bloating with war. That is the reason it is called a "dividend." Peace does bring dividends, not least in terms of money. That is not to speak of dividends in terms of avoiding the cost of human lives.

The P5 million and P11 million, in fact, are just "earnest money." The peace process will require far bigger outlays from government for public works and other projects. A just peace costs money and a lot, but no unjust war costs clearly and more.

At the very most, it's only the war-mongers, quite apart from supporters of the former squatter in Malacañang, who believe that anything less than all-out war against the MILF is a betrayal committed by the AFP will sometime not harnessing the soldiers in silent belief which you would have thought forces like had already proven. Even was the brother of one of the victims in the encounter in Basilan and by all rights should be nursing a certain and revenge death to his enemies. He hasn't. Despite having seen the state of his brother's remains, which is enough to make the stones weep, and despite being buried to it by the front of a TV program, he has refused to table his orders. He has said instead that he and the family his brother left behind prefer to obtain justice through legal means. He has said instead that the soldiers themselves have no wish to shed more blood in Muslim Mindanao as it is already awash in it.

World finds that would already have put those who would've told her was from the safety of their homes to shame. But, no, they're cranking up their rants. There's nothing impeachable in the initiatives P-Noy has taken for peace, there's everything laudable in it. He's not the one that ought to be impeached, however ill at ease.

There cause is the reason thing is wants, but you wonder why government hasn't been able to do that. What in God's name is wrong with its communications arm? Of all the pundit cohorts for P5 million and P11 million—and P50 million—and P500 million—all it could come up with was that government was honoring a commitment made by the previous (non) president. That is pathetic, and it makes Aborot look brilliant. Fair enough, why should you honor the commitments of one who made her commitments for reasons that stood largely to personal comfort than national interests, for self rather than collective survival?

And why in God's name do you have to wait till the bolshies come your way before you bother to explain your policies, particularly about so vital a thing as peace, to the people? You want a swift peace without consummating peace, and if that's the way government communicates, the last thing it will bring upon itself is the fires that peace does to a country.

Dividends.

Boy punctures P-Noy bubble on YouTube

Children should be seen and not heard — Gabi Gervais's proverb

PRESIDENT AQUINO's interview with YouTube on Friday was capped by the last question from a seven-year-old boy named Joshua. The boy asked whether the President believed in Santa Claus and added his Christmas wish-list.

The President said he wished people would stop "criticizing everything and everything" and would be more "loving." And in response to Joshua's request, who modernized Boy Abunda's first Southeast Asia's World Star award, asked Joshua from among a group of visitors Filipinos. The child was crowned a wide range of issues, including the Mindanao war, the separation in health bill, the penitentiary effect of the chaotic Manila public transport system and destructive impact of frequent tropical storms covering Metro Manila.

The question from the boy threw me out to consult the President's chief of staff, Jojo Ochoa, on one of the domestic issues that have dominated his 17-month presidency: how to deal with the mounting criticism of his campaign to put closure to coverage. Ochoa has been inherited from the previous administration and the government's inability to reverse the economic slump during his watch.

Joshua is presumed to have no intention of embarrassing the President, and yet it was his question that hit P-Noy's Achilles heel. He reply was evasive and did not address the issue of what has really disquieted him. As we shall soon see, a devoted that the President has not yet come to terms with the issue that critics of the performance of his administration — or any administration, for that matter — have to deal with in a democratic political. In democratic systems, criticism is the terrain through which the public reviews, including the press and the political class (i.e., the political opposition), challenge the government in order to point out how it's not playing its own pledges. That is not the only way to get an elected government to perform results, or in the case of the Aquino administration to strike a balance between promoting socioeconomic and police gains.

All these accumulated gripes came to a head in his response to an apparently innocent question raised by the seven-year-old boy about Christmas. Mr. Aquino is not unlike his mother, the late Cory Aquino, who managed to bring out the best in her critics. Cory was never vindictive but she had a long memory for resentments. Although she was constantly acclaimed by the media for toasting the Marcos dictatorship, there was never a warm relationship between her and the media.

The same distant relationship prevails between President Benigno Aquino III and the media. Mr. Aquino has been decidedly off the Aquino-friendly. They perceive it as a class by itself, living in their own world disdainful by the wealth of Hacienda Luisita.

Mr. Aquino appears to have come to believe that he can symbolize the moral mandate and the iconic role of Cory Aquino in the 2010 People Power Revolution have given him an unchallenged right not to be accountable for the performance of his administration.

The tension of adversarial relationship between the media and the political power holders, most of all the President, was not created by his electoral mandate. That mandate did not empower him to be incompetent or not to work hard to deliver a stronger economy than the one he inherited in June 2010. His electoral victory has not given him any immunity against legitimate criticism.

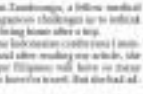
Although no one has questioned to be the legitimacy of the Aquino administration, this perception is not going to be permanent. Already a number of people have questioned the backsliding by the administration or the enactment of the Freedom of information bill, the backbone of his promise to give a transparent government.

The government's chief economic team recently defended its performance in starting to grow fine. The Christian faces with believes the government and media are on course is unlikely to happen.

'Pasalubong'

WRITING ALL the way from Zamboanga, a fellow medical anthropologist Cha-cha Dagunton challenges us to reflect the pasalubong the public we bring home after a trip.

Dagupanon was in the same conference room I mentioned in my last column, and after reading my article, she wrote to agree that younger Filipinos will have or more appreciation than we have for travel. But she had additional thoughts



Michael L. Tan

about how the young become interested in the world and the world around us when we bring home more meaningful pasalubong.

The origins of pasalubong have been discussed by time. And from the word itself, which means "for the returning," I suspect it evolved for a time when travel was difficult, making the return more emotion-laden. The more distant and the more difficult the place one went to, as in the case of many of our overseas Filipinos, the more important it was to bring back something. It's a way of saying, "I'm glad to be back with people I love — and I'm glad I'm back in one piece."

When you travel a lot, as I used to, the pasalubong sometimes turns into a tedious obligation to other than us never generously and joy. Because we feel obligated to bring something for everyone, we pick up whatever we can, just to give something. That often means chocolates in a T-shirt emblazoned with something like "My dad went all the way to Zamboanga and all I got was some lame souvenir." We are more the worse when it comes to bringing home something.

Dagupanon's description of her pasalubong for her youngest granddaughter got me thinking about what it might have been, or could be again. Here's what the granddaughter got all excited about: a book and a wooden puppet (Dagupanon sewing puppets and other goodies, of a Filipino/Ilocano inspiration at the Philippine Embassy).

Children are not appreciative of what I call a pasalubong package. The excitement over the gift itself means all, but a hearty pasalubong package includes stories, tuned-to-time-to, you have about the trip.

Dagupanon, being an anthropologist, had many stories about her trip, including the Ramayana epic that was danced on a Prambanan temple in Indonesia and during the puppet dance, with the bell providing a delightful sound effect.

Dagupanon couldn't her photographs as part of those pasalubong, and asked this should be. Older children will probably tell them eyes, "Oh no, not even a T-shirt." I remember too all the cartoons that appeared in the United States showing a family dying of boredom as one of them solemnly goes to a photo album. Worse days, a PowerPoint presentation of their latest trip.

But I can imagine Dagupanon's photographs being more dramatic with the puppet and the bell . . . and YouTube. Hey, now that's an innovation, the dramatized video from the beloved dancing Ramayana costumed photos.

More money than time, I suspect, is the issue behind presents we bring home out of our trips, only to find it was too dark, or the performance were too far away. YouTube gives you a large selection, including some pretty bad ones, but you'll also find good videos, technically well part of a pasalubong package from the place you went to. To be prepared with your youngest kids wanting to upon the videos. If you really like cuteness of older ones, they'll watch for more videos on their own.

Dagupanon has many other years to go with her pasalubong, including a globe to show the kids the routes their Lola took to get from the Philippines to wherever it was she went to. For local travel, I would suggest using to even more detailed maps to show all the different provinces.

Dagupanon mentioned that she's not her younger people who will be the ones to the budget-wise. She's right. But her grandchildren are saying they want to travel some day, and, more importantly they want their Lola to come along too.

And who not indeed? If we bring ourselves fit an should be able to backpack for to see "house years" with the young ones. My kids have been with me to Baguio, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao. I'm hoping to take them to more places in the Philippines that I haven't been to, and would like to visit with the kids. When they are older they will appreciate the places more...and they can help me with my backpack.

But to what their appetites for house travel, the pasalubong will be important. The more her choice picture. Bring something that will remind them of your visit to Manila, stuffs, food, and lots of pictures. "Even for Christ, loves on the footsteps to know you're more about the places.

Irish

Two corrections to my last article, one from the beginning and one from the end. They are fairly minor, but they got me thinking of additional issues. At the start of my article, I mentioned Lord's "Lord of the Flies." It should be "Lord of the Flies," and not Lord's. Also, I mentioned "Lord of the Rings," a movie that many "old again, again." My bad. I must tend to do this a lot, perhaps because our languages use a lot of duplication, including the word "pasalubong" which technically doesn't mean "to expect" but "expect one and over time over and over again" like my kids' questions. We repeat words for emphasis: something, as well as to do emphasis or to suggest that something isn't quite real, to in mighty-fine-dandy-for-gummy bears!).

At the end of the article, I referred to Mr. Filipinos as being located in Kenya. One reader e-mailed to remind me the ancestors is in Tasmania. She was the only reader who caught that lapse, which shows how little we Filipinos (and Asians) know of Africa. It's a reflection of the world order: travel has always been more between Asia and Europe or North America or South America. Many years ago I had to attend meetings in South Africa and Zimbabwe, which entailed a long trip from Manila to London, and then another long flight down to Johannesburg. To get a South African visa, my passport had to be sent to another country (Malaysia) I think it took for processing. There's got to Durban, I had to stop over in South Africa to catch a connecting flight my visa to be processed. The total cost was something like $2,500 for an economy flight.

It's so much easier now. Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific all have direct flights from Asia to Johannesburg and Cape Town. And Malaysia Airlines has a promotion right now offering a round-trip economy ticket to South Africa for about $1,200, including taxes. Oh to be young again.

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A 'biblical' tragedy

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

three disrupted with drama of public trust and of power and administering a mesopotamia gesture, capable of evoking a powerful emotional response. This is the crux of the criticism that torture the administration so much.

The "I believe in Santa Claus!" The President said, "Santa Claus is perhaps the personification of

(the) best in people, the idea of preserving More than anything, we really have no child, to those of us still left (those) the criticism and finding everything done to transforming ourselves into how we envision our neighbor, our sons, our brothers to observe, somebody we don't even know."

Mr. Aquino said people should think of how to contribute "towards the improvement of the whole rather than concentrate on envy or our ability to criticize daily to all infractions that leads to nowhere."

Perhaps the idea of caring for everybody does not exist only during the Christmas Season but seem to is a limit of everyday life that has to be looking out rather than looking purely or need ours and interest.

Mr. Aquino also dropped down of saying that he needs a permanent moratorium to enable him to fulfill the pledges of his Inaugural Address and to not complete the programs outlined in his first State of the Nation Address.

The President has shown many times his unwillingness to pay reports on his personal life, and more to roll the media's focus to the administration's unique accomplishments in economic management, and the high rate of administrative

Rizal and Bonifacio as students

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampio

PUBLIC SCHOOL elementary and high school students swarmed to their classrooms last week while college students, on the other hand, enjoyed two-three-day weekends before finally facing the books this week. Their days are back-to-school but are rules have to deal with a new syllabus, some set of students, and yet another semester. If students enjoy unscheduled holidays, resulting from bad weather or some other reason, teachers have to face make-up classes, and the cycle begins.

While preparing for class this week I wondered what our learners were like in school. What if I had lived in Bonifacio or Aguinaldo in my class?

In all honor that Rizal enjoyed school, at least in the beginning. Rizal's first school was a private kindergarten or "kindhaus" as all his subjects would be taught in German. Rizal's fourth grade is the equivalent of today's 10 years. That's 11 or 12 in A in German and 14 in Latin. The grades you see in Rizal's card have remained in the National Historical Commission of South Korea and that has traditionally been explained to illustrate how unhappy he was in HT.

Nothing can be further from the truth. When Rizal was in HT, the relationship between the Jesuits and the Rizals, who rented their land as tenants-at-will, was quite cordial. As a matter of fact, Rizal's father Francisco Mercado, who died three years before the Rizals left Calamba, was given a private tutor, Leoncio Lopez, to help the boy with his studies. Lopez was the first to recognize Rizal's unusual talent and encouraged him to enter the Ateneo Municipal de Manila.

Rizal's first year in the Ateneo, 1872, was a very exciting year for Calamba.

Contrary to popular belief, the reason Mercado, and of Rizal's case was the equivalent of a high school diploma. Rizal's first year in the Ateneo, 1872, Rizal's exceptional Ateneo grades increased from his interest in the humanities and the classics. Rizal was at the backbone of the intense curriculum

Much is being made of the monthly financial report, of God said to be around P1 million and now "moderated" to around P600,000, being given to the older Rizal's to hand to Magsaysay and her other children. Has everyone considered not to attach to the fact that he was (or has been) supporting a second family, which after all is his obligation, for that the ailing former legislator was giving their each chaps interest. This is not counting, mind you, the entire lavish residence he had built for his wife Imelda, and for various being paying in expensive private schools.

By what I can gather from news reports, Senator got along fairly well with his older half-siblings. As the oldest of Gloria's children, he was entrusted with the mentally impaired and managing its distribution. In fact, according to one source, it was his child even the family's other-wards, at that prompted the surrender of the younger siblings.

* * *

BY ALL accounts, the Revilla children have been behaving themselves well. I can't recall if it was a year or two ago that Jolo, Ejercito, Luis Manzala, who told the media that to Gen "there is no half-brother or half-sister," that all the offspring sired by their father are welcomed into the fold and treated as equals and as family.

But certainly there would have been tensions and ill feelings. Only now, in Gensher's favorable position, are there surfacing, telling it her-to-mouth put that the senator insisted to be the tutoring himself from his sister and "interfering" in the investigations of the case.

It finally tragedy is not enough, without his nemesis and suspicion meeting their right hands besides.

It may be a tale as old as time, but cooler heads and reasonable hearts must prevail. Bangsa deserves justice, as does his girl Hannah and his surrogate two sons by her Raul and Bonifacio. They should be told that Bonifacio had such a high regard for Raul that he could not begin the revolution without consulting Raul, who was in exile in Hongkong. Raul was the honorary president of the Katipunan. He also served as secretary in the initiating Katipunan meetings and his name was one of the patron-saints of the Katipunan.

It is not well known that Bonifacio, according to Teodoro Kalaw, author of Raul's "Rizal," "Filipinas" and even the translated edition of "Noticias de la vida Filipinas" by Rizal's. If true, this is significant because Bonifacio appointed to Rizal Jonsaro as the 1.9% that he had not read Raul's speeches. It also means that the Katipunan revolutionary must have enjoyed by Rizal's novels if not many people, apparently included, did not read them?

Not many people know that Bonifacio made the best Tagalog translation of Rizal's "Dimas-Ialim" from the original Spanish. Bonifacio appointed by the late Gloria Montano August 8. Kalaw who claimed that the text translator was a Cebuano named Rizal. If true, that makes Bonifacio a polyglot who only someone else's intellectual property but also translated it into Tagalog. Pundit Quirino Medina is correct because the so-called Bonifacio translation is not one to be true.

So what does it entail a bonding scholar gets one look from a piece of paper? Not much really. Real bonding is a matter of mutual respect, intellectual rapport and a continuous search for knowledge and the pursuit of truth.

Comments are welcome on my Facebook Fan Page

Gambling's face in the 1600s

LETTERS

IN RELATION to the article titled "Getting modern" favoring casino industry in PH" (Inquirer 10/22/11), which is about the supposedly modern effect of the culture of gambling on the moral values of our people, here is an excerpt from a report by the University of Santo Tomas Archivist. The letter tells about the game of chance known as "lasona," which was played during the Chinese New Year in "Parian" or "Chinatown" (Binondo, Manila) in the 1600s. "Sarsa" ultimately disappeared. So, why can't "lasona"?

The letter, dated Aug. 30, 1695 (translated by me from Spanish), was written by Fray Juan de Paz, O.S.F., from Manila.

"A Royal Decree dated 30 June 1679 instructed the government of these islands not to allow the Sangleys [Chinese] to play the 'lasona' except on three days...

"It is journal by Don Alberto Collera found in the century of Chinatown, the following is recorded: "Today 6 May 1604, the Sangleys staged a revolt, which was so organized mainly by the public games in this Chinatown. Those who lost lessons to angry and so desperate that they instigated the uprising. I have witnessed three revolts during my 11 years of stay in these islands, and all of them were staged by Sangleys who had lost the game and had ended up the prison..."

"Some of the Sangleys who came in this land carried enormous amounts of money loaned to them by merchants and other wealthy men in China. They lost this money in the games during their first year and they did not dare to go back to China, because they feared for their lives. They stayed here and became dictators, for with their lives, as can be surmised from the speech with which they decided to become rich.

"There were also Sangleys who borrowed considerable money from Spaniards and who lost all of it in the games. And since there was no way for them to pay their debt, they fled to China, leaving behind in these islands their respective wives and children poor and helpless.

"Every year, we see that most of the sworn [lenders] in Chinatown, after the games of the New Year, have different names. The former owners lost everything they had in it. They used to be wealthy businessmen but, after the games, they are obliged to look for job or taxpayer main family. Others hang themselves.

"Those evils are so serious that everybody will agree, I think, if I say, 'Those who play these games and the governors who allow them are blind and are enemies of the common good.'"

Fray Juan de Paz adds: (1) The officials approve and other ministers received money in exchange for the chocolate and food they sent to the gamblers. (2) The officials approve received money in exchange for the cacao which they sent to the gambling venues. (3) Twelve thousand pesos were collected to be doled out by the ministers as "lasona" (winners aids as "B"). (4) Six thousand pesos were collected for the Royal Treasury (again stated). (5) Two thousand pesos were given by the Sangleys to the governor on the occasion of the game.

—FR. EDILBERTO C. IARTOS,
edisoncal@yahoo.com

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Paradigm shift needed to beat climate change

OUR PLANET is now home to 7 billion people. We have breathtaking seas, parks and dynamics. Here is The Age of Overshoot, where we see that "first-class" growth is crossing the Earth's carrying capacity, depleting natural capital and outpacing the biosphere's capacity to renew itself and support life."

Current struggle with the economy of having 7 billion people on the planet and soon-rise it's not a number we should underestimate. John Bongaarts, vice president of the New York-based Population Council, said that every billion people we add makes life more difficult for everybody that is already here. This is certainly true the case for the 7.00 people in the world who are still together worth $7 billion, according to Forbes Magazine, 2011.

Already the are faced with hunger, scarcity and strife. Forty-one percent of the world's population (some 2.3 billion people) live in water-stressed areas. About 1.2 billion people use clean drinking water, and 6,000 children die every day from it. Six years ago, the United Nations projected that there might be 50 million climate refugees by 2010. In recent years, however, we have witnessed more extreme weather events that have left scores of people displaced and impoverished. Critics say that the 50 million climate refugees may be a conservative figure, and as the population increases in conjunction with the extreme weather events, we expect a surge in climate refugees. The next dilemma will be where to do and where to relocate them. In the Philippines, we have faced the winds of typhoons ("Ondoy" and "Pedring") that have claimed hundreds of lives and P25 billion in damage to infrastructure and agriculture. This is just a taste of the grim future we face. As we struggle to develop and advance, we are faced with this vicious dilemma: we are faced with this vicious dilemma: we are faced with this vicious dilemma: battling the damage and chaos left behind by extreme weather events.

LOST HOPE. This is what is left of a portion of Agno River in Barangay Bethlehem, Bokod, Benguet province after a landslide caused by typhoon 'Pedring.'

At we develop, our leaders should leapfrog over the same mistakes with which Western industrialization and economic consumerism have brought us to the brink of environmental catastrophe. Rather, they should espouse a paradigm shift and seek assistance of the developed countries to assist developing countries with low carbon initiatives, leaving the planet more sustainable and better-off than when we first set foot on it.

—GINA ARIAS,
ginaf2k@ymail.com

PR group using Lopez firms to muddle Senate probe of DBP loans

WE WISH to reply to the Nov. 7 columns of Neal Cruz and Conrado Banal III, both of which refer to the same subject, regarding certain loans that were written off by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) from 2004 to 2009. Curiously, the two columnists wrote on the same topic, on the same day, using the same words. They were obviously instructed to write on the DBP scandal by diverting to Iloilo. While Cruz may not have fully understood the motivations of complex financial transactions, we were surprised that Banal, who should know better as a business columnist, bought the pitch of these PR operatives hook, line and sinker, thus misleading unwary readers.

The headline of Cruz's column, "DBP 'saves' off P1.6B as loans to Lopez group," seems to give the impression that we were recipients of special favors from the DBP. The fact DBP provided loans to Lopez Group companies only as part of a consortia that included many other banks. A Special Purpose Vehicle law was enacted in 2002 to help all banks clean up their books as a result of the Asian financial crisis of 1997, which affected other companies as well.

Some of the terms cited referred to in the two columnists were results of arm's-length negotiations where all lenders, not just DBP, bathed banks. The biggest haul was taken by Lopez Holdings Corporation, which had to write off a total of P201.7 billion in equity and advances to Meralco, Bayad Center Inc. and Bayan Telecommunications Inc.

Lopez Holdings and its operating units were never recipients of bailout loans from any government financial institution. All debts incurred were provided by investments that had all the time and the opportunity to review our investment portfolio, and had the same opportunity to refuse an offer.

Isn't it curious that these regular loans are being embellished as pin-when the banker is investigating DBP for some questionable lending activities? Now that it is well within DBP's mandate to lend to our group of companies that refer infrastructure, cable and water distribution are vital public necessities if we are to develop sustainable urban communities.

It is not as if our companies borrowed to speculate in the stock market. We invested in real infrastructure and real businesses that suffered economic losses, partly due to the crisis but mainly due to the hostile legislative regime prevailing at that time.

—CEZAR (Jahvader C. Ocreza, president, Lopez Holdings Corporation

GMA barred from travel abroad, says De Lima

From page A1

"Between national interest and one's constitutional rights, which is more important? It's certainly the interest of the state," she said.

De Lima also noted the "very big changes" in the list of countries that Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, intended to visit.

In the letter sent to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Nov. 2, there was "no invitation" that the former President had lined up, aside from attorney abroad which her camp listed as "medical consultations" in Singapore, Germany and Spain, according to De Lima.

In her three previous letters to De Lima, Arroyo said she was planning to seek treatment in the United States, Singapore, Austria, Germany, Italy and Southern Israel.

"If her condition is that bad, they go to several destinations? Their indecisiveness on their part with respect to the specifications of countries of destination casts certain doubts," De Lima said.

No extradition pacts

De Lima expressed her concern that the countries that Arroyo listed had no existing extradition treaties with the Philippines.

"There has a red ink there, considering I cannot risk in order to file a hold order," she said.

In justifying the issuance of the watch-list order against Arroyo, De Lima cited as example the departure of Ms. Jeanna Vilma" Bautista, a primary suspect in the murder of her brother Ramon Bautista.

"Are we going to allow respondents in criminal cases go scot-free, flee the country and then elect, reside and be beyond the reach of the judicial processes?," she asked.

De Lima said she denied he lack of merit Arroyo's request for watchlist.

"To grant (Arroyo's) MOV based on her spokesperson's claim of her unconfirmed right to travel is to violate the state's power to demand the satisfaction of his obligation to answer in criminal charges," the order read.

"In the end, the state cannot be rendered powerless by the undue intervention of a right like preventive and guarantees of which ... relies on the very same efficient of said power by the state."

Appeal to high court

Before De Lima announced her decision to bar Arroyo from traveling overseas, the former President (reelected) asked the Supreme Court to allow her to travel abroad for medical purposes and to nullify the DOJ watch list order against her.

Arroyo, through her lawyer Jesinto Menduña, said his right to travel, which is guaranteed by the Constitution, should not be impaired because she has not yet been charged in court.

The Constitution says the right to travel may not be impaired except upon lawful order by the court or by reason of national security, public safety or public health as may be prescribed by law," Menduña told reporters at a press conference in Malacañang.

He said "no such law has been enacted and Mr. Arroyo has not yet been charged in court, and no probable cause for any crime has even been declared against her."

While it was true that Arroyo had yet to be formally indicted, De Lima said the preliminary investigation being conducted by the DOJ on several criminal complaints filed against her was part of the "process."

Plunder info

De Lima said Arroyo was named respondent in three plunder suits and two cases of electoral sabotage filed in the DOJ.

The plunder charges stemmed from the alleged misuse of fertilizer and economic warfare funds, and the questionable sale of the Etolo airport. In the electoral sabotage cases, Arroyo was accused of "giving direct instructions" to rig the results of the 2007 midterm elections in Maguindanao.

Quest for closure

De Lima said granting Arroyo's presence in all the preliminary hearings was part of the Aquino administration's "quest for closure."

"We need to attain closure for all of these cases which are not ordinary cases. These are high crimes which a (former) President is accused of committing," the justice secretary said.

"The Filipino people can also start to be closure. So while we are generally optimistic, we must balance justice with compassion," she added.

Discrepancies

De Lima also cited "some discrepancies" in the medical documents that Arroyo's camp had attached to her three separate requests for an allow-departure, orders she submitted to the DOJ last month.

Quoting Ona, she said the order by the attending medical professionals from the former Pres. does not indicate were the operations she had on her cervical spine.

Since the medical papers, there, De Lima said the health secretary requested that Arroyo had been "experiencing fairly well because of local doctors using local facilities."

She said Ona's assessment of Arroyo's condition was based on her "objective reading" of the medical documents prepared by Dr. Rolando Milanol and Dr. Hosie Ng of St. Luke's Medical Center.

Degenerative condition

At 64, Arroyo is suffering from cervical spondylosis, also called neck arthritis, a degenerative condition of the cartilage and bones commonly aging adults.

Doctors said the condition was caused by the slowly worsening aging of the cervical spine, for which doctors usually recommend three months of surgery between July and August.

Replying to critics who said that local doctors could treat Arroyo, Menduña said the right of a patient to choose his doctor was part of the liberty of a person.

"Certainly what she would like to do is find out from other doctors whether this treatment can be shortened so she can live a normal life. I think what is of order is not just liberty but life itself," he said.

Convenient excuse

De Lima turned down the appeal for compassion for Arroyo's relatives and political allies.

"I don't see several humanitarian relief trips President Aquino sent open to Arroyo's foreign travel based on humanitarian grounds, she said. "Compassion and humanitarian grounds are a convenient excuse. But if we always concede to that, then we will not have a substantive system."

De Lima said compassion should be tempered with justice.

"Justice cannot be always based on humanitarian considerations or compassion. There should also be some substantial and vital considerations," she said.

Also yesterday, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, husband of the former President, sought the intervention of the Supreme Court in challenging De Lima's authority to bar him from leaving the country "without any court sanctioned travel order."

LEGAL EAGLES Estrella Menduña and Anselmo Dizz show photos of former President Macapagal-Arroyo wearing a heavy steel brace during Tuesday's press conference. JOEL NIÑO ROMERO

SIDE VIEW of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wearing a heavy steel brace. CHERRIE PEÑALOSA

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If joke's on you, you're close to P-Noy

From page A1

Star' days in Congress—a sign of how much he liked and admired the man.

Speaking at the 8th National Congress of Accountants Conference organized by Accountants Today, Atty. Mr. Aquino appointed "Kapag kaya pa" at "Ay sa kapag na kaya" as his "slogan" at to say he would not let issue I bring myself to leave you, that we are a good, safe, strong."

Quality of work

The opposite had been true with Aquino "because that's the way I am when a person is close to me," he said.

But lately, the President said, he seemed to have run out of jokes on officials. That's why he would like to congratulate him particularly for reducing the casualty's list requests to 600,000 more or less from 1.3 million and is now after he finds out "the Department of Agriculture."

Mr. Aquino said he decided he will be when he received Arroyo's invitation to the conference.

"When someone calls in Congress, whenever the name of Process was mentioned, he was already history for the quality of his work," he said.

Then the President took a light jab at his host, saying he had long known of Arroyo's dedication and effective ness in public service partly because he (Arroyo) is older than him.

Congress intrigue

Mr. Aquino then recounted accusation of the House of Representatives, where he was with a senior congressman from Tarlac and Aquino was a senior member representing Cosmos.

"We were launching an impeachment case then and Pimentel became a subject of intrigue when somebody told me, 'Sir, Congressman Arroyo and his party voted for impeachment' (in favor)," he said.

"I told the media that if that is true, then I will show off the rest of my winning hair," said the balding leader to President.

Later, Mr. Aquino recalled he had had to be reminded Arroyo about the senior. Still what Arroyo finally showed up at the House session that day, he said affordable to not and backboard his support for the impeachment complaint.

Thanks to wife

"And that is why I say I have full confidence in you, because when you say something it's really carved in stone," he said, turning to Arroyo who was in the audience.

For a parting shot, President Aquino said Arroyo could have been "pinoy" a long time ago by the private sector, given the latter's wealthier than and the salary he receives from the government.

"Fortunately, I remain to his salary good graces. Therefore, he won't be stoned," he said, drawing laughter from the crowd.

NO KIDDING President Aquino shares a rare message to Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala during the 8th National Organic Agriculture Conference held at the Aquino Center in Tarlac province. JOHN ALCAZAREN

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Assoc. Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

PURPLE yam take up most of the storage space as the Good Shepherd convent, which produces one of the best "ube" jams in Bagiuo City
ROMEL HUERTAS

No secret in Mountain Maid success

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

EACH MORNING before they begin work, young workers of a Church-based factory in Baguio City known for its strawberry and "ube" jams pray and embark on an hour of "tai chi" and "shibosha," both slow and meditative exercises.

"The prayer helps give me inner strength and tai chi and shibosha help awaken my nerves to help me better focus and be efficient in my work," says Jackie Rose Lubbong.

Lubbong, 30, from Agutaya, Palawan, is one of the workers of the Mountain Maid Training and Development Foundation. Thought to homegrown factory, the foundation run by the Religious of the Good Shepherd, has been sending young people, mostly from the Cordilleras, to college since 1993.

Now in her third year taking up business administration, Lubbong learned that big companies, such as Toyota, give importance to meditation and fitness to improve their workers' efficiency.

Lubbong is one of the more 200 students enrolled at part-time workers at the foundation. She spends three days at the workplace and three days in school each week.

In Guadalupe Statistics, who coordinates the foundation's scholarship, said "student-workers" are among the secrets of Mountain Maid. "This is why the prayer and exercise sessions are included as part of the work hours of our workers," she says.

'We are actually giving our workers more than what the law provides'

Quality standards

Maintaining and overseeing quality standards is also one of the secrets of the foundation. Statistics says the products undergo through strict inspections of the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Health and the Department of Science and Technology.

Inspections include regular laboratory tests for traces of aflatoxin, a toxin produced by mold that can damage the liver and may lead to liver cancer. The fungi that produce aflatoxin grow on crops such as peanuts, wheat, corn, beans and rice.

To prevent aflatoxin infestation, the foundation has invested in a facility called dehumidifier, which regulates humidity inside the workplace, says Statistics.

Benefits

Professionalization is another secret. This includes giving workers fair wages, benefits such as 13th month pay and bonuses as required by the labor department. All workers are members of the Social Security System and beneficiaries of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

"We are actually giving our workers more than what the law provides," says Statistics.

Other benefits include free snacks and a subsidized lunch for workers. "Where did you see 40% lunch with unlimited rice?" asks Statistics, as she shows workers queuing up for their lunch break.

She says that if workers are satisfied with their pay, they become efficient.

Part of their professionalism, Sec program is letting workers attend health and sanitation seminars, such as HIV and AIDS awareness, which are attended by government and private agencies. "All seminars and trainings are credited as work hours of the employees," says Statistics.

Discipline of saving

She said to handling and, many young workers would need to spend their hard-earned money on less important or unnecessary items such as high-end mobile phones and other gadgets.

So the Good Shepherd sisters taught them about the discipline of saving. They have devised a scheme where the workers are forced to save.

Through the scheme, the workers are advised to contribute two percents—one for expenses such as food, house rent and transportation and another for tuition and other fees, and for contingencies.

"I was taught to appreciate the value of money. I came to learn how to really budget and spend only on necessities," says Christine Joseph Cabanes, 28, who is taking up accounting technology, his second course after finishing financial management.

The scheme has been adopted by many students and out-of-school youth who also work with the foundation.

Mechanization

To meet the demands of a growing clientele, Mountain Maid has gradually mechanized over the years.

Grinding peanuts into butter used to be done with a rolling pin. But in 2008, the foundation bought a grinder.

In 2010, Mountain Maid began its mechanize production. For example, making cake pans and sticking flour for baked products have been aided by machines.

Currently, being installed at the Good Shepherd compound in Baguio is a diesel-fueled facility for a cheaper but efficient way to process ube jams. The only product that is still done manually is strawberry jam.

The industry that the Good Shepherd sisters nurtured is also benefiting strawberry and ube farmers.

The foundation has 31 organized strawberry and ube farmers who are assured of a fair price and sure market for their products through a contract-growing scheme, says Bautista.

Other stakeholders become opportunities for workers are allowed to sell their products at the market. During the rest of the season when prices fluctuate, strawberry farmers prefer the fair price of the foundation, she says.

Overall, the secrets of Mountain Maid's success are actually open, says Statistics. "There is made discipline in production, cleanliness, orderliness, good manufacturing practices, commitment, dedication, perseverance, team work, innovation, sharing blessings and values formation," she says.

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"But all these professionalism and diligence are for God's abiding presence."

The first in the country

DAR Legal Info System Online

Website Contents:

The DAR LIS will contain the following:

- CARP Law (R.A. 6657, as amended) and Related Laws
  - Republic Act 6657
  - Batas Pambansa Blg. 9001
  - Republic Act 7161
  - Republic Act 7905
  - Republic Act 8532
  - Republic Act 9700
- DAR Issuances
  - Index of DAR Administrative Issuances
  - DARAB Rules and Issuances
  - Administrative Orders
  - Special Memorandum Orders
  - Legal Opinions
  - Memorandum
  - Memorandum Circulars
  - Special Orders
- Agrarian Law Implementation (ALI) Orders
- ALI Case Templates

For instance will also have related laws and administrative issuances pertaining to agrarian reform, including Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions, and issuances from other government agencies. Select forms and templates for use by the DAR personnel, as well as techno-modules from experts on the topic of agrarian reform, are likewise uploaded on the DAR LIS. In addition, this portal aims to be useful for stakeholders, farmers, lawyers, law students, farmers and their organizations, academicians, and the general public, and can be accessed FOR FREE.

Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

in partnership with

CD Asia

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Hiwatig-gonia

COA: Sue ex-gov for Malampaya abuse

By Rodvargus O. Asis
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Commission on Audit (COA) has recommended the filing of graft and criminal charges against former Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes and members of the provincial bids and awards committee under his administration for alleged irregularities in the use of nearly P3 billion in Malampaya funds.

The report by a special COA audit team obtained on Tuesday by the Inquirer detailed alleged anomalies by the Reyes administration, including how it had favored certain private contractors to execute over 200 infrastructure projects funded by Malampaya royalty.

The projects, ranging from day care centers, that cost a total of P30 million, to a reclamation project that cost over P400 million.

The Reyes administration got hold of the huge Malampaya money following an interim agreement in 2008 between Malacañang and the Palawan government to spend a portion of royalty from the Malampaya natural gas field being claimed by Palawan. The governor's claim escalated pending at the Supreme Court.

The audit was conducted by a COA team between August 2009 to December 2009, as an 8 instalment, which led to the finalization of its report, was held on Feb. 9, 2011.

The report has yet to be released to the public, and most of the officials indicted in the report claimed they have not yet been furnished a final copy when contacted by the Inquirer. Reyes could not be reached for comment.

Incumbent Gov. Abraham Kahlil Mitra declined to comment, referring all calls to the report despite acknowledging he had read it already.

"I understand they (indicted parties) were intending to file a motion for reconsideration on the findings," Mitra said by phone yesterday.

Reyes first rose to fame from public view after losing a bid to run for congressman in southern Palawan in 2010. He was implicated later in the alleged mastermind in the January 2011 murder of broadcaster Dr. Gerry Ortega, who had targeted an alleged corruption under Reyes and other local government officials using Malampaya funds before he was murdered. Reyes had vehemently denied involvement in Ortega's killing.

COA blasted Reyes and his PBAC for executing a total of 217 Malampaya projects costing P1.7 billion without following procedures that would have opened the bidding to other contractors.

The COA report noted, for example, that in 66 of these projects, there was only one bidder. In 159 projects, there were only two bidders, while the remaining 13 projects were shortlisted even in absence of bids.

Apart from Reyes, commissioners charged were Ismael Mathay III, Preston Sermonia, Ferdinand Dela Teodita Palanca Jr., Charlie Pactor, Rolando Reamon Jr. and Luis Mercado II. All were members of Reyes' PBAC, with some remaining in their posts under the BSAs administration.

The report also noted the repeated instances of the previous awarding contracts to private contractors who had already previously won contracts.

WELL EQUIPPED
More guns like here produced from being a cog (up next) of materials to a well-equipped force ready to give government soldiers a good fight. These are Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in their camp in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

NPAs raid farm of key figure in 1990 coup plot

BUTUAN CITY—Communist guerrillas raided the farmhouse of a retired colonel and key figure in a 1990 coup attempt against Senator President Corazon Aquino in one of a series of attacks launched in Agusan del Norte and Bukidnon that prompted the military to send more men to the local base.

On Monday, members of the New People's Army (NPA) raided the farmhouse of retired Col. Alexander Noble, a key figure in the 1990 coup attempt against the late Mr. Aquino, in Impasug-ong town in Bukidnon. The rebels took a shotgun, a .38 cal. revolver, a mobile phone and P6,000 in cash.

Noble is known to have led the uprising of soldiers against the late Aquino administration in Cagayan de Oro City in 1990.

Also on Monday, NPA rebels burned a fuel tanker in Pangantucken town, also in Bukidnon.

Maj. Eugene Osio, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said the Bukidnon attacks came just as more soldiers were sent to run after guerrillas in Agusan del Norte.

The Agusan military operation then started if guerrillas who attacked three mining camps in Tagbalan, Santiago del Norte last month, according to Orlando Franklin Jr. Gelligaid, Inquirer Mindanao.

Cops say alleged communist hit man shot self dead

By Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The alleged leader of a communist guerrilla hit squad operating in Southern Tagalog shot himself in the head inside a van that was stopped at a police checkpoint in a Batangas town in what police yesterday said was a case of suicide driven by fear of being arrested.

Chief Insp. Manuel Castillo, police chief of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, said Edwin Villasis (real name Hernando Villasis Bonyet), 34, was in a van with Sentinel Bernet, former mayor of Mamburao, Laguna, and driver Reynaldo Almoite that was flagged down at a checkpoint in Barangay San Rafael near the exit of the San Tomas.

Castillo said Bonyet and drivers had alighted from the van, a Toyota Corolla with license plate XOW-516, when a gunshot rang out from inside the vehicle. Policemen slid the door open and found Villasis lying lifeless inside.

Bonyet and Almoite were briefly held by police but released on Monday, Castillo said.

Villasis's group is believed responsible for the assassination July of former Batangas provincial intelligence chief Supt. Rodolfo Bautista, two policemen in Bulacan, Batangas, last May and four soldiers early this year, according to Capt. Gene Orozco, spokesman of the 202nd Brigade.

Clamor for CARP lands farmers in jail

FARMERS seeking CARP coverage of large landholdings in Pavia, Pampanga, pack the bar on the entrance of fellow farmers who were jailed last Friday for opposing the leasing of lands across the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

PORAC, Pampanga—Twelve farmers, jailed by police from since 9 a.m. on charges of grave threats, walked free on Tuesday as the closure of at least 100 other farmers protesting the sale of a 700-hectare property across the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) that they wanted covered by land reform.

The detained farmers, aged 19 to 52, are members of the farmers' organization Magsasaka ng Malusak Dalayat (Farlex), a group of tenants or farmland tillers of the disputed property that was sold to LL Holdings (LLH) and the PL Properties and Management Group (PLPMC).

The problem began when the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) exempted the (disputed) landholdings from the CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) in 2005," said Antonio Tabucan, Farlex president.

The sale also led to PLPMC allegedly surrounding its 200 hectares of land covered by a Certificate of Asserted Domain Title, according to Atty Imelda Cristal de la Cruz.

The 12 farmers were jailed after the LLH and PLPMC complained to police that they allegedly threatened to kill guards securing their property on Nov. 4.

Antiona had objected to a plan to fence off the contested property in Porac. Its members marched on Tuesday to the police station to protest the arrest of the farmers, who were charged with grave threats.

But they left the police station here at 1:35 p.m. on Tuesday after the two companies filed an affidavit of desistance, which allowed Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Oreo Silandum to release the 12 farmers, according to lawyer Anastacio Cachuela, counsel of the two property firms.

The 12 farmers stopped their jail wearing yellow shirts. They raised their fists and vowed to continue the campaign to have the contested lands covered by CARP.

"We had no intention to fight back. We were just carrying the construction of the fence," said Nonoy Tolentino, one of the jailed farmers.

He said the farming should have been suspended because Antiona was still waiting for the results of a second DAR-ocular inspection that was conducted three months ago in response to Antiona's petition to reclassify the land for land reform.

Antiona cancelled Porac Mayor Condrado de la Cruz Jr.'s request for the release of the 12 farmers. He in Cruz said the "safe-withdraw set by the companies were that the dispute be peacefully settled."

But Tolentino said that "our fight is not over [because] the [land] are ours," Rosario Orejana, Inquirer Central Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

■ TACLOBAN CITY

Typhoid kills boy

THE DEPARTMENT of Health (DOH) in Eastern Visayas has declared an outbreak of typhoid fever in four Leyte towns as the number of people affected with the disease has reached nearly 200 and has claimed the life of a 3-year-old boy. Rogelio Espinosa, district nurse supervisor of the Carigara District Hospital, said the boy, a resident of Barangay Gamboanguen Norte in Carigara town, died at the hospital on Nov. 4. DOH records showed that 187 people from Carigara, Cavinti, Capoocan and Tunga towns have sought treatment for typhoid from mid-July to early October. The DOH's epidemiology surveillance unit has attributed the outbreak to the contamination of water supply in these areas. Bob Dolores Bada, coordinator of the Metro Carigara Water District, said the facility has been conducting monthly tests to ensure a clean water supply. Jose Sabillo, Inquirer Visayas

■ EVENTS

New SSS amnesty

THE GOCBA, Security System (SSS) will implement another round of amnesty for unpaid contributions to be established. Under Republic Act No. 1050 president and chief executive officer, said President Aquino has approved the amnesty plan on Oct. 10 though the SSS has yet to endorse guidelines and set the date for its implementation. The statement said the amount of uncollected penalties on money payments by employers is falling in July. Members can pay in full or through installments of three years at 3 percent annual interest. To avoid termination of these benefits, however, members should have paid at least three monthly contributions prior to applying for the amnesty plan, the SSS statement said. Members filing claims for disability or retirement will have 30 percent of their penalties condoned, said the statement. But members who haven't paid even one of their loans would not be covered by the program, said De Guzia.

■ ORMOC CITY

Extortionist falls

POLICE arrested a Korean during a reservist on Monday for trying to extort money from two neighbors by claiming that their pet dog is a member of a group of communist rebels. Jonathan Solis, a resident of Barangay Cogon here, was arrested after his neighbors, Al Jones Abad, a night police help, Alvah, in her complaint, said she received a letter from Solis on Nov. 2, asking for P15,000 supposedly as the reward money of the Alvah Armament Command of the New People's Army operating in Leyte. John Roman Dizo, Inquirer Visayas

■ TAGAYTAY CITY

Quake hurts 16

AT LEAST 16 people were hurt when a moderate earthquake hit Batangas on Monday, disaster response officials said on Tuesday. At least 10 people sustained minor injuries due to injuries they suffered after the magnitude-5.2 quake struck Batangas at 5:40 p.m., said disaster response officials. The disabled injured in the quake's aftermath were reeling from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) traced the earthquake's epicenter some 32 kilometers west of the capital Batangas City. In a report by AFP Reformed Toledo, seismologist at Phivolcs in Batangas City, said the quake was caused by movements of a local fault about 100 kilometer below the earth's surface. "It was very shallow, the energy it generated can cause a lot of damage," he said. At least 23 houses collapsed or were damaged when the earthquake struck, said Maj. Eugene Julio Mata, the spokesperson of the disaster's Office in Quezon Province. Meanwhile, 3 was hit in Malvar, City and Quezon town, also in Batangas. Meanwhile, 3 in Lipa and the City, and Ibaan, by 1 in Calaca, Phivolcs reports said. Fredan L. Lim, Inquirer Mindanao, and AFP

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa
SPORTS

De La Hoya: Manny on a different level

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

LAS VEGAS—For eight rounds, his closest at the receiving end of a beating, relentless boxing, for that whole the hell sang for the ninth, he envisioned no like mood, unable to go any further.

Oscar De La Hoya, therefore, knows perfectly what he's talking about.

The Golden Boy rebuilding a life that had spiraled into drug-fueled depths after a thorough defeat at the hands of Manny Pacquiao, dropped by the WBO Oriel Gym Monday said said the Filipino superstar has a huge edge going into his showdown with Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez on Dec. 15.

"Manny is on a whole different level," the 39-year-old former poster boy of boxing said. "Manny has been fighting (the likes of) Shane Mosley, myself [and] Miguel Cotto. Marquez has been fighting ordinary fighters [and] that could be the difference."

De La Hoya, who actually visited Hall (just to check on his trend, Andy Ruiz), who retired three, fought Pacquiao in 2008 to what was initially pegged as a rematch in favor of the latter.

But Pacquiao earned those odds, pummeling De La Hoya with a dizzying combination of speed and power for eight rounds until the latter quit in the sixth.

De La Hoya hasn't fought since and his life took a turn for the worse when he made public a drug problem that forced him into rehab. He said Saturday that he is slowly turning his life around.

"I'm turning my life around," he said, adding jokingly, "there will be no more comebacks for me."

De La Hoya called Pacquiao a special boxer who is "good for the sport" and said the ongoing rematch for pound-for-pound king will enter his third bout against his nemesis more and stronger than in their two previous encounters.

"Manny is faster, stronger, and bigger in 30 years old," said De La Hoya. "But Marco has to be careful with his style. Manquez's style can be complicated for Manny."

De La Hoya knows Manquez's plan of building up for the fight around some speeds. Lots to Ole Filipino eight division champion. After all, the Golden Boy was also the bigger guy against Pacquiao during their 2008 bout. In fact, De La Hoya said, the added pounds may pose more of a problem to Marquez than to Pacquiao.

"Marquez is 36 and he came up to weight for that," De La Hoya said. "You can't do that to two fight and have fitness."

Pacquiao-Marquez III, which will be for the Pacman's WBO welterweight crown, will be fought at a catch weight of 144 pounds.

Since moving back Marquez he a success split decision in 2008 for the super bantamweight crown, Pacquiao has ended the unit three lighter divisions, winning titles in each of them.

The Filipino continues to open overwhelming odds in the fight that will be held at the MGM Grand, with Las Vegas bookies putting him a minus-900 favorite against Marquez (plus-650).

Almost all betting lines have Pacquiao favored, with oddmakers leaning toward a knockout by the Pacman. A huge reason for this is the fact that Pacquiao has floored Marquez four times previously.

Pacquiao knocked down Marquez three times in the first round before the Mexican counterpuncher rallied to forge a draw in their first bout. In the second meeting between the two, Pacquiao's third-round flooring of Marquez had been disputed as the catalyst for the close decision.

A JOYFUL Oscar De La Hoya (left and seven) surprises Manny Pacquiao with a visit at the Wild Card Gym Monday. The Golden Boy Lara said Pacquiao, faster and stronger, should win.

Freddie Roach with his superstar ward

Roach says Marquez's weight ploy a mistake

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

LAS VEGAS—He or sons, Freddie Roach has never pulled his punches on his predictions. And he's not going to start now.

After watching Juan Manuel Marquez bulk up to match—at least to size—Manny Pacquiao, Roach has an idea of how these Nov. 12 showdown at the MGM Grand will go. It will be another fight off the ball, to call be fair sound. In fact, in fact, that it could be over quickly.

"Don't be surprised if this fight [ends in] one round," Roach told journalists before hitting the road with a making room-by-that-trek Team Pacquiao from Los Angeles to the brightly lit desert gambling and entertainment haven.

While he may have missed out on his first two boldest predictions, Roach has been on the slot several times previously and has never shied away from trying to pinpoint exactly when the end will come for the opponent.

This time, though, aside from having watched Pacquiao put in a whole lot of extra work-outing it into preparing for this PBO welterweight championship, Roach is looking for prediction up with the way the Marquez camp has conducted itself.

"He is so much bigger now and went on a weight program in such a short time," Roach said. "And there's only one way to say that: dishonesty, and that's to fight Manny Pacquiao."

"I think he willing to come out really and exchange with us," added Roach.

The Filipino icon said he's ready for that.

"He promised and I'm excited," he told a television interview.

Roach believes that with the Marquez camp trailing speed for weight gain, the Mexican counterpunisher will be encouraged Pacquiao to trading combinations—a ploy that could have Marquez walking right into a haymaker.

"He will try to exchange with Manny some other blows," Roach said. "I told Manny to be ready for a fast start because [Marquez] will try to get him early. And if he does that, he'll end up on the floor."

Roach said engaging Pacquiao would only be the reason for Marquez's decision to bulk up to a street upon. The trainer called it "a mistake."

"I love it to my pay," said Roach.

Roach said he "feel Pacquiao simply go through the motions and trained that he'll have him simply work out to keep his weight with him. He just left before eight nights.

"He ignored like four rounds and did the rounds with the mitts," Roach said.

Pacquiao weighed 144 pounds after training Saturday night on the dot for the catch weight stipulated in the fight pact.

READY TO GO PhilCycling president and Taguig City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino (seated, second) signs the Union Cycliste Internationale licenses of the 11 Asian Philippine cycling team to the 26th Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia. Witnessing the affair are team members and coaches (back row) as well as (seated from left) PSC commissioner Buddy Andrada, PSC chair Akiko Barrio, POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros and SEA Games coordinator Jimmy Lua.

Jins, rowers prop up Pinoys' spirits

By Myong R. Castillo

JAKARTA—With its medal hopes in football spanked, the Philippines is looking to other sports for redemption as the bulk of the contingent starts arriving Wednesday for the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

Expectations of a podium finish for the Under-23 Azkals vanished Monday night after a 1-2 defeat to lightly regarded Timor Leste, a setback the delegation did not expect to catch in the tournament.

Athletes from taekwondo, rowing, equestrian, badminton and cycling are due at the Jakarta International airport Wednesday.

Three jins who won gold in Laos two years ago banner the taekwondo squad, which also includes the former world champion women's poomsae team of Real Ann Orteza, Francesca Camille Avelia and Ma. Carla Jaime Lagunas.

Former Asian Games silver medalist Tina Cordero will lead the equestrian team in the jumping events. She will pair up with "Magic," a 10-year-old horse she hopes to ride to a gold medal.

Juliet Antonio, the 23-year-old member of the 2005 jumping team that won the gold in Manila, Michelle Ramos and Diego Lorenzo, the 2007 individual silver winner in Hidden Nainfoon, also compete for the team contingent.

The Philippine rowers will be bilateral in different boats in the traffic-clogged Indonesian capital.

Acting PH chief of mission Atty. Jun Orendain has been working round the clock to make sure that the Filipinos are not affected by the "chaos" that may attend the ramp to the Games.

"We are working double time to [arrange] our athletes' accommodation," Orendain said, aware of the predicaments suffered on Tuesday by several Malaysian athletes who tried to check into their hotels unbilled-for.

Athletes from locations said the rest of the badminton team are scheduled to arrive on Thursday along with the rest of the delegation, including the country's pro-athlete basketball team.

Asian standouts Greg Slaughter and Kiefer Ravena and UAAP MVP Bobby Ray Parks, as well as deceased amateur Chris Tiu will lead the Philippine team.

Track cyclists will arrive on Dec. 13, with the traditional host team expected two days after.

Garcia stands pat on 70 gold medals prediction

By Cedell F. Tayao

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission (PSC) stands pat on its medal target projection of 70 gold medals and a Top 5 finish for the Filipino contingent in the 26th Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia.

The country's campaign started off on the wrong foot with a pair of losses in men's football, but PSC chair Akiko Garcia believes this time she interpreted the mistake of the 547-strong contingent.

"I still believe my target of 70 gold medals is achievable," said Garcia at the PSA Forum yesterday. "With the high spirits of the athletes ... it's not that hard to find the set to be able to get 70."

The Under-23 Azkals lost to Vietnam (1-3) and Timor Leste (1-2), leaving their semifinal hopes hanging by a thread in Jakarta.

"We've had some bad news in football, but this should not dampen our spirits."

The SEA Games formally opens on Friday in Palembang, the hub of the competition, and Garcia assured that the few stated events in like the debated absence of tickets and lobbying issues in Palembang will be ironed out.

Peek-less TNT seeks share of lead vs Tigers

By Jove Navarro

ALREADY hobbled by injuries, Talk N'Text will carry another burden onward to an offseason workday on one of its key players when the Tropang Texters square off a three of the lead to the PBA Philippine Cup.

All Peek was taken to the hospital Gin-on Monday night after an unidentified gunman opened fire at him, hitting the 6-foot-4 power forward in the nape with the bullet finally severing the spine and other organs.

TNT coach Chot Reyes said Peek was at ready stable that would be awaiting surgery to remove the bullet.

Reyes said doctors are waiting for the doctors of Peek's mother, who is scheduled to arrive from the United States today.

Mandaluyong police released a composite sketch of the suspect, who was described as clean-shaven, standing 5-foot-5 to 5-6, of medium build and about 30 to 36 years old.

"He's (Peek) a very strong person but obviously these things have a way of getting into you so he's in a state of semi-shock," said Reyes. "The necessity of what happened has just started to sink in."

Peek's situation would definitely affect the psyche of the Tropang Texters coming into their 7:45 p.m. match with the Powerade Tigers at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Fresh from an 86-71 rout of second-footing Barangay Ginebra, the Tropang Texters are aiming for a fourth straight victory to tie idle Rain Or Shine (6-1) on the top.

Petron Blaze (4-3) is also looking to climb the ladder when the Boosters take the floor, during Meralco-san Gabriel (0-7) following its conquest of the winless door in an all-out contest in Cebu last Saturday.

Apart from the injuries of Ronald De Ocampo, Harvey Carey, Nelly Advincula and Alapag, the Tropang Texters lost backup swingman Aaron Aldon to ACL sprain today in practice.

The Tigers were briefly boosted by Bardee Bell, 7'0.1/2", tying Barangay Ginebra and B-Meg for the Asst at 3-4.

Meanwhile, Rain Or Shine coach Yeng Guiao has been summoned to appear before the PBA Commissioner's Office tomorrow to explain his statement with Reporter "Tyler" Manzo of Bombo.com.

PHILIPPINE CUP
STANDINGS

	W	L
1. x-Talk N'Text	5	1
2. Rain or Shine	6	1
3. Petron Blaze	4	3
4. Meralco	3	4
5. B-MEG	3	4
6. Powerade	3	4
7. Ginebra	3	4
8. San Mig Coffee	2	5
9. Barangay Ginebra	2	5
10. Alaska	1	6
11. Air21	0	7
12. Global Port	0	7

GAMES TODAY
(Smart Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Petron Blaze vs. Air21
4:30 p.m.—Alaska vs. Global Port
7:45 p.m.—Powerade vs. Talk N'Text

Tandag rides on Bitoon to clinch crown

TAGBILARAN CITY—Tandag City led by newly minted grandmaster Richard Bitoon, fresh from their Negros MCIA, 9-1, to the finals to a dozen the win battle to emerge champion in the 2011 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship yesterday at the Tinnoan Event Center.

The win was worth P250,000 to the Tandag City bets, who crossed a finish to the finish with their emerging past Davao City 2.5-1.5, in the tournament-ending match.

The Bongjos, who dispatched elimination representative Mandaluyong City 3-1, in the offor semifinal pairing, settled for second overall and went home richer by P90,000.

Bitoon Palo Master Jan Emmanuel Garcia and Hanjuanjuan Reyes secured the crucial wins in the "tiebreakerless" playoff after the Bongjos, handicapped by Palo Master Hamed Bosal, forged a 2-2 draw.

In the "tiebreakerless," the player handling the white pieces is given a 0.5 advantage in case but the player handling black needs only a draw to win.

Bitoon, playing white, crushed Bosal, Garcia controlled Jamalia Jovenales while Reyes downed Pajaynael dela Cruz. Joel Pimentel secured a decisive for Bacolod rebus he burned Ilocos. The released there.

J. Manresa-san (right) of TNT tussles University of Manila's (A Hamed (12) in yesterday's game won by the Texters.

NU stays alive for PCCL seat

By Cedell P. Tigas

NATIONAL University powered it lead more than enough Benguenet even without UAAP MVP Bobby Ray Parks as the Bulldogs regrouped for Upcoming Warriors, 84-74, yesterday at the start of the Metro Manila qualifying round of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League.

Tennis Villanueva and Ajit Singh stepped up in Parks' absence to send the Bulldogs to another knockout match with University of Manila, which ousted Technological Institute of the Philippines, 79-69, in the first game.

The victory of the Bulldogs-Hawks clash re-matches with Clarks as Ateneo, the former 16-0, with others UAAP champion Ateneo and MOA while San Beda have already secured their spots, also assured of lowest 16 slots are MOAA-San Sebastian, Letran and San Pilot U and UAAP's University of Santo Tomas, Emilio Univ Adamson.

Andrew Bowen shot 23 points to lead the Heroes, who missed last point guard Jeff Napoles who is serving notice with Cafe France in the PBA D League.

GAMES TODAY
(Filoil Flying V Arena)
2 p.m.—Arellano vs. Emilio Aguinaldo
4:30 p.m.—Perpetual Help vs. Mapua

Pablo skipped the game to focus on his new role the Shaq Philippine National Team that will see action in the 26th Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, University of Northern Philippines swept its first two assignments in the ongoing North-Central Luzon regional games.

The Blanks topped St. Louis College of Nursing (Lucena), 83-61, and edged Urdaneta of Casiklong, 90-85.

Courtesy 1-1 win-loss records are University of Pangasinan and Lyceum.

Elite survive Bakers, claim solo top spot

By Gerusan N. Pays

BLACKWATERS TOP quarter took over in key exercises as the Elite held off a rallying Café France, 92-86, to claim the solo lead in the PBA D-League Aspirants' Cup yesterday at the Lyceum gym.

As the Elite extended to their third straight victory, Mark Pacific Player pulled off a thriller with Kevin Pascol making a silly left-handed layup with 54.7 seconds left to lift the Steelers past their Underrated, '70-72', in the second game.

"We're fighting, that's why I got him," Shalla Pipo coach Topex Robinson said of Pascol.

Pascol, a late-addition to the former, fired all but one of the blanked last 11 points for a game-high 25 points.

"He just made the necessary steps in the end," added Robinson after his throwback battled back from eight-points down, 70-87, to clinch their third victory in succession.

Dishing up from Mark Bringas and Aric Fortunato's strong start, Clark Students and Ruth Technical combined for 13 points in a 20-14 surge that gave the double-digit spread back in the Elite, 37-62, after the Blakers had rallied within 37-51.

Bringas finished 12 of his 16 points from beyond the arc.

Hewenmart Dali shielded to its third straight loss. Café France also remained winless in its two outings.

ABABA

Ababa fave as BDO-Cangolf tilt tees off

THE P1.5-MILLION BDO Candelaria Golf Invitational presented by ICTSI outlook today with Bernard Ababa out to fuel his drive for this year's Order of Merit crown with a victory at Candelaria Golf and Country Club's south course in Zambales.

With second-running Elmer Salvador spicing up runners in the Singapore Open also slated this week along with the other big game of the local way, Ababa is the only player with a chance to fuel home amazing but suspended Arvin Magramo's bid for the coveted crown.

With P1.01 million in earnings, Salvador leads Pigmeatan by more than P400,000 while Ababa is more than P500,000 behind with P976,956. But a number of the last two days, including the P2.5-million ICTSI Week Week Championship, will fuel Magramo's bid.

The 24-year-old Ababa has won two of the last three legs of the circuit organized by Philippine Golf Tournaments Inc.

The tournament is hosted by Mt. Cast Golf Management Inc. Seniors, Callaway Untish, Tylenol, Mapei, Cardon Chilmabon, Milanos, Marco Coffee-mix, Inquirer Golf, A Runn) of Golf, Smiths 23, Rolls, and Dynamic Sports.

Meanwhile, Michael Bhat powered his team composed of Cole Gopuso, Mic Santos and Rudie Bitoy to victory in the pro-am tournament today posted a 54.

SPORTSWATCH

2 cage projects come off wraps

Talk'n text basketball sports general is expressing the boost of the sport in the country are raised this month.

The first Interschool Basketball Training Center for TNT'S 40th League Catches Universities will host 11 to 12 of the Metro Aramis Stadium in Manila with some 300 coaches expected to join.

The launch of the "Sporting Manila Point Guard Academy," a project of the Manila Local Government (LGU) that is aimed at transforming tall, young players into better playmakers is also slated here 2:1.

The two projects were announced by MCC executive director Jennifer Ramos (LGU sports coordinator manager Alan Gregorio in yesterday's Pilot Forum at the Shalom's UN Avenue in Manila.

Gregorio said the latest search program will be focused on those 12-15-years-old age bracket.

"We want to see that our kids will have it good growth to represent the country in international tournaments," said Gregorio. Cedell P. Tigas

NFGB 'Bakbakan' at PCC

PILIPINO is the NFGB National Bakbakan 11—Single Elimination Tournament for competitive cooking at the Pasay City Cockpit (PCC).

Six of yesterday, 12-17 breeders all over the country have booked their respective slots for the elimination rounds set.

PCC will host three elimination rounds on Nov. 11, 18 and 25, and the championship on Dec. 2.

Presented by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, this year's "Bakbakan" has the support of 24 congressmen, governors, including the Pinoy Cockfighting Arena operator headed by Eric Andrew Pinoy and Sydney Pinoy.

For inquiries, call 843-1966 or 843-1140.

Only Ali Peek knows why he was shot

TALK 'N TEXT (TNT) super Ali Peek was shot in the neck Monday night, but the gun used was not powerful enough to knock down the hulking player.

Ali, who stayed on his feet after the shot was fired, was even led to his car by outfit trainer John Arquiza who then rushed him to Medical City in Pasig.

Ali had just finished his regular weight training cycle at Arquiza at the MVP gym when he was shot at the parking lot.

On his way to the car, several fans were managed to take his autograph and pose with him for photos.

The last time saw the gunmen ran away from the scene.

The security guard on duty at the parking lot said he could not tell the entity if Ali was hit because he was still standing and his leg hand covered the wound left by the gunshot.

"Ali is such a good person. I can't understand why anyone would want to harm him," said TNT alternate governor Bobby Rosales after visiting Ali at the hospital. "He's a very simple man with an easy and is well-liked by his teammates."

IN HUDDLE

Alvin Gaña

Sticky said Smart-PLDT and Meralco big boss Manny V. Pangilinan, Mapalad MVP Polo Ganzon and MVP Sports Foundation president Al Panlilio also visited Monday Tuesday morning.

"All his friends rushed to his bedside as soon as they learned about what happened," Ricky said. "Even Alfredo kept watch over him all night, with teammates Jimmy Alapag and Jared Dillinger taking the next shift."

According to Ricky, Ali's very first boss in the PBA, RFM's chairman governor and team manager Elmer Yanga, also came to visit.

It was actually Elmer who first told me (over ago about Ali's position qualifications.

"Versatile" was the adjective he used to describe the PF-American.

Since Elmer had soon to the MVP premises and personnel, I decided to call him.

Elmer said the gunmen initially approached the gym janitor to request some water.

Elmer also said that Ali used to park his car across the gym.

He said the bullet was still lodged, and in Ali's neck.

"I just saw him on the Internet," Elmer continued me later. "MVP is offering a P500,000 reward for information that will lead to the arrest of the suspects responsible for the shooting."

That moment, asked you, could help dismay the cost of seeding the country's U-16 national girls team to the Fiba Asia tournament. The team is still without a sponsor, even though Alaska Milkmag helps provide the necessary accessories and has pledged to give them allowance for the trip.

There was a report yesterday that someone had lifted the 30-footer the stained weight training. He seemed upset after the talk, the report said.

What could exactly be the motive of the gunmen?

Only Ali knows the answer. He saw the gunmen.

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₱.5M bounty for cager's shooter

Peek stable, may undergo surgery

By Nina Calleja and Jomes Navarro

WHO WOULD want to harm or kill Ali Peek?

This was what police investigators in Mandaluyong were trying to determine yesterday after they failed to turn up clues to the shooting of the 36-year-old Filipino-American basketball player.

"Even Peek was shocked and clueless. He said he has no enemies," said investigator Phil Donald Belen told the Inquirer.

A reward of ₱500,000 has been offered by Talk 'N 'Text (TNT) owner Manny V. Pangilinan for the man who shot the cager.

Initially, the robbery angle cropped up after Peek told police he was shot in the hospital that before he was shot, someone tried to grab his bag although he managed to snatch it back.

"He thought the man was just one of his fans. All of a sudden, the man shot him," Belen said.

He added, however, that the bag-grabbing may be just an attempt to mask the gunman's real intention.

Senior Supt. Armando Balilo, Mandaluyong police chief, said that before the shooting, Peek's attacker was spotted loitering near the gym. The man even asked one of the janitors about the basketball court's usual rates.

The police yesterday released a computer-generated image of the gunman to seek the public's help in identifying him.

COMPUTER-generated sketch of PBA player's shooter

Balilo said witnesses described the shooter as between 32 and 36 years old, 5'5" to 5'6" in height, with dark complexion and of medium build.

RAMBO DEL A. LUA

LED THERE BE LIGHT

Vendors selling Christmas decorations using LED lights put their wares on display on a busy street in Mandaluyong City in advance buyers.

ARCY MORALES

Drivers using Skyway Naia must pay toll

STARTING on Nov. 16, Skyway operator, Skyway O&M Corp. (Skyway), will start collecting toll from motorists using the Skyway System through phase one of the Naia Expressway.

The 'AVI-inclusive' toll is part of the interim operation agreement signed by the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. and Skyway.

Under the rates approved by TRB, Class 1 vehicles (cars, jeepneys, pickups and vans) will be charged P35 while Class 2 vehicles (light trucks, coaster/school/public utility buses and other vehicles with a height of 7 feet or more) will be charged P70.

The Naia Expressway (Phase 1) connects the Skyway System near the Buter interchange loading in and from Andrews Avenue in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

TALENT manager Annabelle Rama signs her enamored fiancé at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Rama: Charges vs me 'false, baseless'

By Julie M. Aurelio

TALENT manager Annabelle Rama yesterday ordered the court to junk the child abuse and serial defamation cases filed against her by former actress Sheila Mesenguer.

Rama, who used to manage Mesenguer's teenage daughter, made the plea in the counter-affidavit she filed with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office during a preliminary investigation.

Mesenguer earlier accused Rama of making her daughters work for more than 40 hours a week and spending money on shoes about them. Last week, she filed another suit, this time for libel, after the talent manager reportedly called her "attention-grabbing" during a television interview.

In her counter-affidavit, Rama, wife of actor Eddie Gutierrez, claimed that Mesenguer's allegation of child abuse was not backed up by sufficient evidence.

According to her, the charges were "false, unmeritorious" and aimed at destroying her reputation.

On the charge of making Mesenguer's daughters work long hours, Rama said that the former actress had approved the working schedule for her children.

"She is their guardian, I am not. I am simply their manager and any info and obligation must be coursed to them (sic) as shows or projects," her affidavit read.

She also denied Mesenguer's claim that she had ordered the two girls to entertain powerful men, professing not that she completely did not indicate the specific date, time, place and people involved in the social events she reportedly made them attend.

"The allegations [are] all false and baseless since they are only intended to instill in the mind of the public that I [am] responsible for the matters of prostitution," Rama said.

She urged the court to dismiss outright the cases against her "in view of the fact that they [do] not indicate that the offense alleged were committed [in] Quezon City."

QC gov't orders study on advantages, disadvantages posed by MRT-7 project

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON City government is carefully studying the pros and cons posed by the proposed Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 7 project.

Mayor Herbert Bautista said he had ordered the conduct of a thorough study on the issues likely to be affected by the project, including drives and operations.

"We must also know how many drivers will be disenfranchised or how many will lose their means of [earning] a living fact," Bautista said in a statement at an executive staff meeting.

The 23-kilometer MRT-7 project will have 14 stations—North Avenue, Quezon Memorial Circle, Elliptical Avenue, Tandang Sora, Don Antonio, Batasan, Mangga han, Bagbag, Regalado Avenue, Mindanao Avenue, Quirino and Sauyo, all in Quezon City; and Annex in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Bautista said one of the factors the city government should consider before entering into a public-private partnership for the project should be the drivers who stand to be affected.

He added that the city government should be allowed to have a say on where the stations within the city would be located to promote Quezon City's target growth areas.

The reason for this is that the old government has a better grasp and knowledge of the situation in the target areas, according to Bautista, who is the nation's 26 Ahmed Alba.

"Even on the proposed for the construction of the rail system, the city government should be given a few hand in determining the area it would traverse; to give importance to the people's purpose and input," he said.

Alba added that it would be better to have the proposed rail system connect Quezon City to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport or other airports to attract more tourists.

FRUITS OF THEIR LABORS
Two boys hunt on Indios after reading coconuts from on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

Tondo barangay bans breaking of toxic lamps

By Jaymee T. Gamil

A TONDO barangay located near a dump is cleaning up its act to safeguard lives and from toxic waste.

Barangay 105, Zone 9 (Dimasalang), passed a resolution on Monday banning the breaking of light bulbs containing mercury in the area.

The move came on the heels of an investigation of toxic materials conducted by environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition at the barangay's Material Recovery Facility in April.

EcoWaste had detected toxic levels of mercury vapor at the Pier 18 garbage transfer station in areas where discarded compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) were destroyed by scavengers for metals such as aluminum and copper which they sell to junk shops.

A barangay resolution strictly prohibits the practice since it "directly exposes informal recyclers and the entire community, especially young children, to mercury vapor pollution."

Mercury is highly toxic and, if ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin, can damage the brain and the central nervous system and cause other serious diseases, it warned.

Junk shops in the barangay were also prohibited from buying aluminum and copper materials extracted from the tins properly recycled or discarded bulbs.

Those caught will be charged with violations of the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the Clean Air Act and similar environmental laws.

The barangay council also vowed to hold information campaigns on safer methods and other health and environmental hazards, and study proper waste management procedures for CFLs, in consultation with related government agencies.

The EcoWaste Coalition lauded the resolution, calling it a "historic" move to protect the community's health.

The resolution will take effect on Dec. 7.

From page A14

The 6' 4" Desk was born in Antarctic and plays center for the team of the Philippine Basketball Association.

He was shot in the nape at the parking lot of MVH Gym at the corner of Shoemkes and Primer Avenue in Mandaluyong City at 7:20 p.m. on Monday.

Initial reports said he was about to board his car when a man approached him from behind and shot him.

But one saw the actual shooting but the gunsi passed and at least two bystanders saw a man running a right ground. Traffic cameras a pair of black mags shown running away from Desk's car.

"Then they saw Desk holding his nape and bleeding," Soldado said.

The report was taken to The Medical City where he was now operated on for his injuries.

Stable but surgery needed

TMC head coach Chot Reyes said Desk was in stable condition at The Medical City although he would need surgery to remove the bullet.

"The bullet missed any major artery or organ. It's lodged at the base of his skull and they have to make a decision whether to surgically remove the bullet or leave it there," said Reyes. "It's going to be difficult to remove it."

He added that doctors were waiting for Desk's mother to arrive from the United States so that she could make the decision.

"He's [Desk] a very strong person but obviously these things have a way of getting [to] you so he's in a state of mind-shock," said Reyes. "The mental[] of what happened has just started to sink in."

"It's been hard seeing my best friend like this. All sorts of the support he can get. Please continue to pray for his recovery," said B-Meg's Don Allado, Desk's close friend and one of the first players to arrive at the hospital along with TNT's Jimmy Alapag.

Reyes said that this year was tough for the team compared to last season which he described as relatively injury-free.

"These come all's in-time. We will need to find a way to put enough for a weekend to move something from a bad form. It won't be easy, but it will show what we are made of," he added.

Victim catches up with robber after a year

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 16-YEAR-OLD taxi driver who was charged last week with destroying and robbing two synagogue girls in Manila is also being sought by the Pasig City Police for reportedly stealing P60,000 from a passenger last year.

Pasig police even coordinated yesterday with the Manila Police District (MPD) via the arrest of Benjamin Agustin Jr. who is detained at the MPD Integrated Jail.

At arrest warrant against Agustin was issued by the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 161 for a robbery on Sept. 25 last year on Banaag Street, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, in Pasig.

Based on the complaint of Winston Sumaoy, Agustin stole his back pack which contained their cell phones worth P15,000 in addition to P5,000 in cash.

Sumaoy claimed that after the flagged down Agustin's 02 Pasbilo Transport Services taxi (TXE 401) on T. E. Harrison Street in Pasay City, she asked him to take her to Eastwood in Libis, Quezon City.

But upon reaching Banaag Street, Agustin claimed that he was tired and out of gas, prompting Sumaoy to pay her fare and alight from the vehicle. But as she was getting out of the vehicle, the driver allegedly grabbed her back pack and sped off in his cab.

Sumaoy, however, was able to trace down the taxi cab's license plate and ask for help from passing motorcycle-riding traffic enforcers although they failed to catch Agustin.

The Pasig City police have tracked down the driver of the cab through the license plate number and filed a complaint of robbery against him.

Last week, two girls aged 14 and 16 accosted Agustin of snatching them in a stalled in Muntinlupa. He was arrested and found to be using someone else's driver's license.

DID YOU KNOW

TECHNOS Mexico, the number of Jose Rizal, rose her to neither 6, 1927, in Manila. She was married to Francisco Mercado will reborn the had 11 children. She was imprisoned in 1892 for allegedly planning to poison her father-in-law and in 1895, she was forced to walk from Manila to Sta. Cruz town in Laguna, as punishment for not using her husband's surname Realonda de Rizal. She had travelled on using diverse She died in August 1911 at the age of 84. She first lived in was the Rizal monument in Luneta.

Rafael Bautista, Inquirer Research

METROBRIEFS

Rendezvous in Manila turns deadly

A 30-YEAR-OLD woman's first meeting with her lover at the Bonanza Compound in Port Area, Manila, turned out to be a bad idea as she was reportedly stabbed, wounded and then left to bleed. Arlene Bongon, a resident of Bonifacio Ave., Quezon City, remains confined at East Avenue Medical Center as investigators look into the incident. Reports from the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 6 showed that the victim was brought to the hospital after she was found at 8:45 p.m. on Monday by a resident of Bonza Compound, lying on the ground and bleeding. An unregistered cell phone belonging her to the wounded victim, she confided that she was there to meet her last male whom she was allegedly in love with. The police said that nothing was taken from the victim and speculated that she was on a visibly attacked because she was new to the area. Jaymee Ann T. Gamil

Sharp-shooting officials win NCRPO shootfest

WHO'S the sharpest shooter of them all? The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has recognized the winners in an exclusive shooting tournament for high-ranking officials during the "Battle of the Generals" now underway. Open to the invitation of NCRPO chief Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, participants were from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, joined the two-day competition. The record holder was Director Rodolfo Santiago, the PNP chief of the directorial staff. Lt. Gen. Roland Detabali of the Philippine Army was named chief 1 winner and Brig. Gen. Nestor Cruz of the Philippine Army as Stage 2 winner. The most difficult phases, stages 3 and 4, were also won by military officials. For Stage 3, Col. Ariel Bernardo, Philippine Marines, shot the highest score, 40 of 50. For Stage 4, Col. Rolando Nana, Philippine Air Force, scored 40 of 50. Gutierrez, Caloocan City, and Hector Nunez, 28, of Tagaytay, Cavite, did. John said that the two men were arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by the Special Projects Group of the QCPD's Criminal Police Intelligence Operations Unit on Monday at Vista Hotel in Cubao, Quezon City. Seized from them were three P50 bills with same serial number AP925928, fake passbills, a bottle of ink suppository and a device producing fake money and a zip bag. Nancy C. Carvajal

2 con artists arrested in Quezon City

A BAND ALONG con-artist duo fell to the arrest of two law enforcers in the act of attempting to pass on a man targeting elderly businessmen in Quezon City, police officials said. Senior Supt. Ronald Allan Quezon City Police District (QCPD) deputy director for operations, identified the suspects as Alfredo Ramos, 40, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, and Hector Nunez, 28, of Tagaytay, Cavite. John said the two men were arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by the Special Projects Group of the QCPD's Criminal Police Intelligence Operations Unit on Monday at Vista Hotel in Cubao, Quezon City. Seized from them were three P50 bills with same serial number AP925928, fake passbills, a bottle of ink suppository and a device producing fake money and a zip bag. Nancy C. Carvajal

This image of asteroid 2005 YU55 was obtained at 11:45 a.m. on Nov. 7 when it was about 1.2 million kilometers from Earth, the closest by an asteroid of that size in more than 20 years.

Big asteroid to make close pass by Earth

LOS ANGELES—An asteroid the size of an aircraft carrier is set to make a close but harmless swing by Earth on Tuesday.

Scientists at Mount's Near-Earth Object Program, which tracks asteroids and comets, asked our own viewers of interest. They're using the close encounter to learn more about the roughly 900 known as 2005 YU55.

The last time a cosmic interloper this size came this close to Earth was in 1976 and it won't happen again until 2028.

Since late last week, astronaut at the space agency's Deep Space Network in California have been monitoring the 0.9-kilometer-wide asteroid as it approaches from the direction of the sun.

The Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico planned a viewing on Tuesday when the asteroid is set to make its closest pass at a distance of 325,052 km at 9:28 p.m.

Researchers will analyze radar images to glean details about the asteroid's surface features and shape.

Since its discovery six years ago by a University of Arizona telescope, 2005 YU55 has been known a great deal about 2005 YU55. Its surface is rock black, and it spins slowly through space.

Amateur stargazers who want a glimpse need not despair. A good sky chart and a 15-cm-diameter telescope or larger may the asteroid's 6-m limit is darker with the naked eye. Even with a telescope, sighting is not guaranteed. The glare from the moon may make the asteroid difficult to spot. AP

Greek leaders struggle to agree on a new premier

ATHENS—Greek party leaders were struggling on Tuesday to agree on a new prime minister, under pressure from the European Union to push through a bailout to save the country's economy and ward off the chaos threatening the euro.

After early signs that agreement on a new national unity coalition could be reached quickly, the drive by the socialist and conservative parties to create a government that will rule until February appeared to be losing momentum.

Monday came and went without any accord on who will lead the coalition, despite furious pressure of the European Central Bank, Louis Papademos emerging as a front runner.

"Today is the last chance for the two main parties," senior left daily To Vima wrote in an editorial. "They have to come up with a government strong enough to take the country out of the swirling sand of political impasse that hosted no deliberation, at the mercy of the crisis. Time is up."

The cabinet will hold an emergency session on Tuesday and officials said negotiations were under way on the "100-day solution" which many see as parliamentary approval for a euro-zone bailout and save the country from bankruptcy.

"A national unity government, right now," Athens daily wrote on its front page. "The country and the society cannot endure anymore."

Frustration was also apparent in Brussels where officials said the two main parties' "senior-level" talks in Athens were an embarrassing premiers Athens has made to its EU and IMF lenders in return for the 130-billion euro bailout.

"It is essential that the entire political class is now restoring the confidence that had been lost in the Greek commitment to the EU/IMF program," said EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn.

Prime Minister George Papandreou caused chaos last week by calling a referendum on the bailout, a vote which would probably have rejected the package because of the austerity measures tied to it. Papandreou backed down, but was forced to in agreeing to make way for the unity coalition.

Many of broken promises from Athens. Rehn said the creditors must "express a clear commitment on paper, in writing, to the EU/IMF program."

The stakes could not be higher. Greece faces bankruptcy in December when big debt repayments are due, unless it can get hold of more emergency funding soon. For the euro zone, it is a question of credibility with international financial markets.

For two years it has labored to solve the problems of Greece, a very small part of the bloc's economy, leading to doubts about how it would manage if the debt crisis engulfed the far bigger Italian or Spanish economies.

What is now a regional crisis could hit the global economy if it goes unchecked. Reuters

Europe puts squeeze on Italy and Greece

BRUSSELS—Europe turned up the heat on Italy and Greece to do their financial homework on Monday, as finance ministers scrambled to conjure up a firewall big enough to stop the debt crisis from infecting more countries.

As euro-zone governments gathered at EU headquarters to address the festering crisis, Europe moved to protect its gold-plated credit rating from the contagion dragging down Rome by announcing big production-spending cuts and tax hikes.

But while Rome and Athens were told to commit to reduce debts in order to ease ruinously punitive borrowing costs, the ministers themselves came under mounting pressure to find a way to deliver a rescue fund boost decided by EU leaders.

As worried investors insist, key euro to gather steadiness-ready to a French "bond", the EU piled pressure on Italy to make good on its vow to slash its 1.9-trillion-euro ($2.6-trillion) debt pile—with borrowing costs for Rome hitting the size of levels that triggered bailouts for Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

European Union Economic Affairs commissioner Olli Rehn said it was "essential" that Italy sticks to austerity budget targets, ensures their implementation and intensifies structural reforms designed to deliver growth.

Rehn and officials from the eurozone would be in Rome this week working alongside International Monetary Fund assessors invited in by Italy during last week's G20 summit.

He used a football analogy to try and connect with the Italian public when he said that "it's important that in fiscal policy Italy plays ambitiously," a cynical defensive style intended to give nothing away to the opposition.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, whose government pays the least share of eurozone bailout costs, insisted Italy now see Greece, even as the yield on Italian 10-year debt bonds rose to a record 6.59% percent in morning trading.

"The data on the real economy include do not justify this excessive concern," he found he said. "We

WORLD BRIEFS

16 Hindus die in stampede in India

LUCKNOW, INDIA—A stampede killed 16 Hindu pilgrims and injured about 50 during a religious ceremony on Tuesday on the banks of the Ganges River in northern India, an official said. The stampede at Kaushambi, in Uttar Pradesh state, was triggered when some of the pilgrims slipped and fell while they were participating in a bath in the river, government spokesperson Anil Dhanda said. Thousands of people had converged on the river banks for the prayer ceremony in the temple-filled town, a tributary of the Himalayas when the Ganges enters the sprawling plains of northern India. Dhanda said police had rescued 18 bodies from the site, and that about 50 injured people were taken to Lokan by hospital. Hundreds of thousands of Hindu pilgrims visit Kaushambi every year for bathing in the Ganges, which they believe will cleanse them of sins and free them from the cycle of life and rebirth. AP

US state tries iPads to help disabled vote

SALEM—The northwestern US state of Oregon was first in the nation to have all residents vote by mail. Now it's pioneering another idea—voting by iPad. Voters in five counties are filling out and returning their mail-in ballots on an i-pad but with the tip of their fingers. It's the latest attempt at using new technology to help voters with disabilities cast ballots privately. Using the iPad, disabled voters can call up the right ballot and tap the screen to pick a candidate. The voters then print the completed ballot and stuff it in an envelope to sign and drop in the mail. AP

Lohan checks in and out of LA County jail

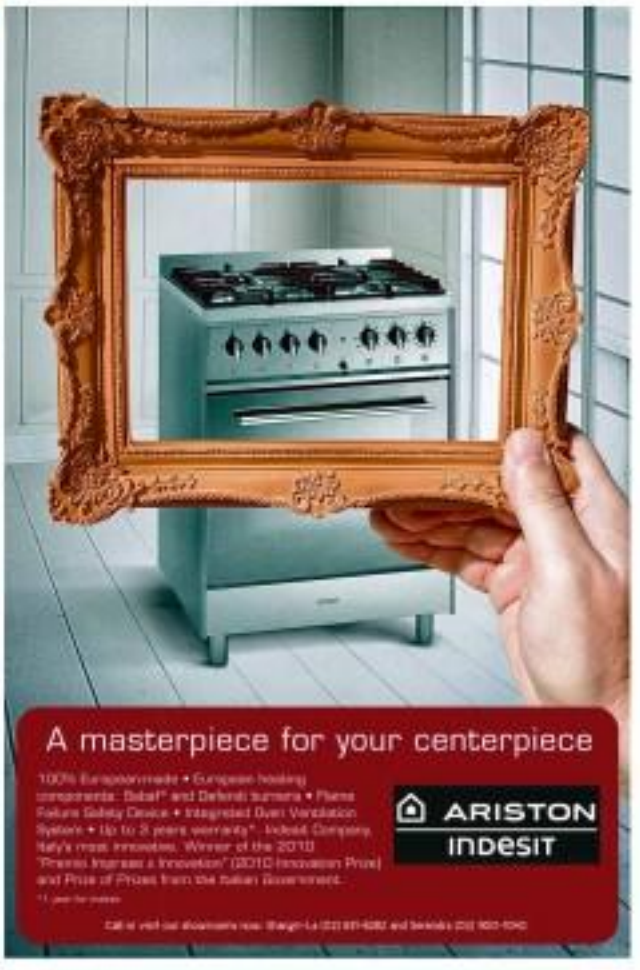
LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA—Lindsay Lohan was released from jail early Monday after less than a day's stay after she arrived on the cross-town arm to Indian Grove as a 30-day sentence for violating probation. The "Mean Girls" actress was booked into the Century Regional Detention facility in Lynwood at 8:48 p.m. on Sunday, in what was expected to be a short stay because of jail overcrowding. She was released at 12:36 a.m., Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesperson Steve Whitmore said. News crews rushing out the jail said she left in a black Cadillac Escalade sport utility vehicle. Another one was in her favor more by 2 a.m. Lohan did not get any favors, Whitmore said. "She's treated like every other person who has gone through similar circumstances," he said. Lohan had said Nov. 9 to report to the jail. It's Lohan's fifth jail sentence since being assisted twice for drunken driving in 2007. On Wednesday, a judge ordered jail time because Lohan recently violated court orders by getting booted from a community service assignment at a women's shelter. AP

Nicaragua's Ortega reelected in a landslide

MANAGUA—President and new hero Sandinista revolutionary Daniel Ortega was reelected in a landslide, according to results released on Monday, overcoming a constitutional limit on reelections and reports of voting problems. Ortega had 63 percent support compared to 31 percent for his new-ist challenger Fabio Gadea, with 99 percent of the votes counted. Former President Arnoldo Alemán was a distant third with 6 percent. The size of Ortega's margin of victory is likely to reduce the impact of reports of irregularities during Sunday's vote. A domestic group of observers, Left's Rank Democracy, said it recorded 600 cases of plans of voting irregularities, a handful of injuries in protests and 30 arrests. AP

Australia passes landmark carbon price laws

CANBERRA—Australia passed landmark laws on Tuesday to impose a price on carbon emissions in one of the biggest economic reforms in a decade and replacing coal-fire reliable bills December's global climate talks in South Africa. Tuesday's vote in the upper house Senate means Australia the second major economy behind the European Union to pass carbon-emitting legislation. Tiny New Zealand has a similar scheme. Its impact will be felt right across the economy, from miners and liquefied natural gas (LNG) producers to factories and steel makers, and is aimed at making them more energy-efficient and push power generation toward gas and renewables. The vote is a major victory for embattled Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who staked her political future on what will be the most comprehensive carbon price scheme outside of Europe, despite deep hostility from voters and the political opposition. "Today Australia has a price on carbon as the law of our land. This comes after a quarter of a century of scientific warnings, 37 parliamentary inquiries and years of bitter debate and division," Gillard told reporters in Canberra. Reuters



The WORLD

Critic Lawrence B. Greco

More accuse Cain of sexual advances

CAIN

BUILDS

NEW YORK—Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain, already hit with sexual harassment allegations by three unidentified women, was accused for the first time in public on Monday by a woman who said he groped her.

Addressing a packed press conference in Manhattan, Sharon Bialek spoke in detail about how Cain put his hand up her skirt and grabbed her in a sexually suggestive way to a car after taking her out to dinner in Washington in 1997.

Bialek, standing with high-profile attorney Gloria Allred in an ornate room at New York's exclusive Friars Club, said the alleged harassment took place when she had sought Cain's assistance after losing her job in the National Restaurant Association, which he headed.

"He suddenly reached over and he put his hand on my leg under my skirt and reached for my genitals. He also grabbed my head and brought it toward his crotch," Bialek said.

"I was very very surprised and very shocked. I said, 'What are you doing? You know I have a boyfriend.' This isn't what I came here for.' Mr Cain said, 'You sent a job, right?'"

The new accusation could shed a blow to Cain's surprise success in the race, where he is vying with the more established candidates Mitt Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, for the nomination to take on President Barack Obama.

"I want you, Mr Cain, to come clean. Admit what you did," Bialek said, reading from a lengthy statement to the glare of camera lights, while Allred stood at her side.

Cain's campaign responded almost instantaneously, saying in a statement: "All allegations of harassment against Mr Cain are completely false. Mr Cain has never harassed anyone."

"Just as the country finally began to refocus on our crippling $15 trillion national debt and the unacceptably high unemployment rate, now activist celebrity lawyer Gloria Allred is bringing forth more false accusations against the character of Republican front-runner Herman Cain," the statement said.

Until now, the reports about skeletons in Cain's closet, which began just over a week ago, have failed to make much of an impact. Cain has soared mostly by outmaneuvering media queries, nevertheless angrily.

Latest polls showed him tied or just ahead of Romney, who most analysts have predicted will ultimately become the Republican candidate. One ABC News/Washington Post poll shows Cain behind by a single point in Alfred, who describes herself on her website as a "freelance lawyer, feminist, activist, television and radio commentator, warrior, advocate, and writer," said Bialek was not interested in a lawsuit against Cain or other financial gain.

"She would have arranged to sell her story, but chose not to do so," Allred said. "If all of these allegations by all of the women who have been reported so have made them are true, then I, for one, am disgusted at Mr Cain's sexual assault harassment of women."

Cain, the former chief executive of Godfather's Pizza, who has never before held elected office, is vying to be the party's first African-American nominee. AFP

Italian PM Berlusconi faces crunch vote, pressure to quit

ROME—Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, under massive pressure to resign, faces a crucial vote on public finances in parliament on Tuesday which could sink his government if enough party rebels desert him.

Berlusconi has denied reports that his resignation is imminent as he struggles to hold his center-right coalition together, but the increased political uncertainty in Italy has added to turmoil in Europe, hitting global markets on Monday.

"I'm not leaving," was the headline in the financially pro-Berlusconi newspaper Il Giornale, owned by his brother.

Il Giornale compared him to Jesus and the defectors to Judas. "I want to look those who betray me in the face," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Chances of defeat in the vote seem to be receding because the center-left opposition may abstain to highlight Berlusconi's lack of support, without hindering the essential ratification of 2012's public accounts.

Guido Crosetto, a government undersecretary, told a morning talk show that he thought the government would win Tuesday's vote but that he was pessimistic about how long it could last after that.

The center-left opposition is preparing a subsequent no-confidence motion that could be held within days.

Rome's left-leaning La Repubblica newspaper, traditionally highly critical of Berlusconi, said he should read the writing on the wall after Monday's markets rally on rumors that he was about to step down. The markets fell back again when he denied them.

"We don't know when, but Berlusconi's time will topple and markets will take off," it said on Tuesday.

The government's borrowing costs have risen sharply. Yields on Italy's 10-year bonds reached another record on Tuesday morning at 6.71 percent, a level seen as unsustainable for Italy's massive debt and which could spiral out of control.

Italy has the third biggest economy in the euro zone and its debt worries are a huge threat to the wider crisis facing the continent's single currency.

Berlusconi's failure to adopt reforms and fully to declare the debt cut he has flashed drawn within his pacing through swimmers very widely over how many more eight deputies will jump ship to the key vote to the lower house due in the late afternoon or early evening.

The 75-year-old prime minister has been trying to win back the support of enough defectors to avoid humiliating defeat in the vote, which he has already lost once. Reuters

AN AERIAL view shows Muslim pilgrims walking around the Kaaba in the Grand Mosque of the holy city of Mecca during the last day of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. AFP

Muslims perform final hajj rites

JEDDAH—Nearly three million Muslim pilgrims were performing the final rituals of the hajj on Tuesday as the world's largest annual gathering neared its close without major incident.

The most dangerous day of the annual hajj proceeded peacefully as pilgrims rushed to throw 21 stones at three pillars that symbolize the devil, the last rite of the annual pilgrimage which is compulsory for all Muslims who can make the journey.

In previous years, hundreds of people have been trampled to death in stampedes triggered by crowds trying to get close to the pillars to take their vengeance on the symbol of the devil.

To complete the ritual, pilgrims must throw seven pebbles at each of the three 25-metre (82-foot) pillars on the first day of the three-day Eid al-Adha feast marking the end of the hajj, and another seven on each of the last two days.

Pilgrims then make their way to Mecca's Great Mosque for a "farewell visit" to the Kaaba, a cube-shaped structure into which is set the Black Stone, Islam's most sacred relic.

Tuesday is the third and final day of the stoning ritual and, once complete, will mark the end of the hajj.

The ritual is an enactment of Ibrahim's stoning of the devil at the three spots where he is said to have appeared to dissuade Ibrahim's beloved son Ismail from obeying God's order to sacrifice his son, Ishmael.

Saudi authorities have installed a multi-level walkway through the stone-throwing site in a bid to avoid the trampling that caused the deaths of 364 people in 2006, 251 in 2004 and 1,426 in 1990.

So far, no major incidents have been reported among the pilgrims, which the Saudi civil defense said had numbered 2.91 million this year. The figure includes 1.83 million foreigners.

The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be performed at least once in a lifetime by all those who are able to.

Officials Saudi Arabia has invested billions of dollars over the years to avoid the deadly stampedes that have marred the hajj in the past.

The Chinese-built Mashair Railway, also known as the Shoma Metro, is operating for the first time this year at its full capacity of 72,000 people per hour to ease congestion.

The two-track light railway connects the three holy sites of Mina, Muzdalifah and Mount Arafat. AFP

Facebook founder Zuckerberg returns to Harvard to recruit

CAMBRIDGE—Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg left Harvard University as a dropout with a record label. He returned on Monday with a triumphant message: He's hiring.

The 27-year-old CEO returned a week-and-a-half after he left for California's Silicon Valley in 2004. He made his recruitment pitch to 250 students after a similar meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"We're just getting started," he said. "The next five or 10 years are going to be about all the different products and industries that can be reimagined."

So many students turned out to see the extraordinarily billionaire outside a university library that campus officials had to set up temporary barriers to separate him from his audience.

Aaron Perry, an 18-year-old freshman, said Zuckerberg's creation was one reason he chose to study computer science. He said he likes learning that companies are hiring computer programmers as in today's struggling economy.

"It's an empowering story, especially these days," said Perry. "It makes it seem like I've got a chance."

Harvard computing officials were working on their own university-wide online directory when Zuckerberg created Facebook as a campus-only social network. The then-sophomore told the campus newspaper, The Harvard Crimson, it was silly that the university needed years to create the site.

"I can do better than they can, and I can do it in a week," he said.

At earlier Zuckerberg sessions, classmate, almost led to his expulsion after he hacked university computers for student photos.

But there were no hurt feelings on Monday. AP

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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Metro Pacific acquires Asian Hospital

MVP-led firm buys 57% stake of Thai group for P1.46B

By Doris C. Dumlao

INFRASTRUCTURE holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. has signed a deal to acquire the controlling stake of Thai hospital group Bumrungrad in the upscale 219-bed Asian Hospital in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

Based on a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, MPIC will pay about P1.46 billion to buy at least 57 percent of Asian Hospital Corp. by following an agreement with Bumrungrad. A subsequent tender offer will be made for all the remaining shares held by the public.

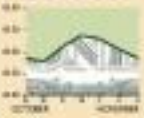
This will be the sixth hospital in the growing network of premium hospitals controlled by the local unit of Manuel V. Pangilinan-led First Pacific group nationwide. With the addition to its hospital portfolio, the MPIC Hospital Group will have in excess of 1,000 beds throughout the Philippines.

MPIC Hospital Group president Augie Dal...

BUSINESS B2-4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 8, 2011
43.145



STOCK MARKET
Nov. 8, 2011
42.95

Stocks up in thin trade

LOCAL stocks recovered with an upbeat mood yesterday, allowing the main index to spring back to the 4,300 level, as foreign dividend on the next tranche of Smart cut and to debt downgrades loomed.

The main index of Philippine Stock Exchange Index advanced 42.95 points, or 1 percent, to finish at 4,314.47. Sentiment firmed up as a European central banker was of the view that the euro crisis might put behind its worst in "one or two years at the latest."

The local market was closed on Monday.

Tuesday's upswing was led by the property sector, whose counter surged 2.5 percent. Only the financial sector ended in the red, although its decline was marginal.

An overnight rebound in Wall Street also injected new buoyant sentiment in the local equities market. Risk-taking indicators similarly improved, as the euro rose to the 1.38 area, now that the creation of a new coalition government in Greece and the rising political unrest in Italy. Risk premiums on Italian bonds, meanwhile, widened ahead of a parliamentary voting on budget reforms.

Nevertheless, investors were encouraged by news that Jeffrey Immelt will get the latest tranche of financial assistance on

STOCKS B2-1

PEACe bonds debate is about sanctity of contracts

By Dante L. Lanas

[First of two parts]

"WE FOUGHT for a house and if only for a house, we shall pay."

This was President Gemino Abad in his speech before the US Congress in 1946, convincing the Republic of Philippines to paying every cent of what was then a heavy foreign debt burden, the bulk of which supposedly did not benefit the Filipino people.

Some veterans of the Bell-Bakker debate mention remember the contentious debates that raged then about whether the government should recognize the foreign debt accumulated by the Marcos administration.

"The banks will never lend to us again," was the cautioning often heard from Bakker advisers who convinced the President to honor the country's debts.

"They will never trust us again if we don't pay up," was the other commonly heard warning.

A quarter of a century later, the administration of her son, President Benigno Aquino III, seems to have chosen a different path. Or at least this different path is the one the President's advisers want to administration to take.

To be sure, the debate about $26 billion in foreign debt is not exactly the same as the debate over whether P1 trillion in supposed taxes should be withheld by the government from creditors' profits. But there are parallels in principle.

However, as first Dana Finance Secretary Cr...

PEACE B2-2

SPECIAL REPORT

Security Bank net profit up 21% in 9 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

SECURITY Bank grew its nine-month net profit by 21 percent year on year to P4 billion on the back of a double-digit rise in interest earnings and loans.

This allowed the bank to maintain a return on equity of 20 percent, a level higher than most of its peers.

In a statement, the bank said the January-to-September profit growth was supported by the 21-percent increase in net interest earnings to P5.5 billion, which was fueled by the 24-percent rise in customer loans to P84.1 billion.

The bank said the healthy profit from lending activities was complemented by fee-based income from services and foreign exchange income that expanded by 17 percent. "Even more than compensated for [our] trading gains, the bank added.

Total revenues for the nine-month period amounted to P7.7 billion, 0.2 percent higher than the levels year ago.

On the expenditure side, operating expenses before provisions and impairment losses were steady at P3.3 billion. This translated to a cost-to-income ratio of 42.0 percent, which was lower than most other banks.

The bank ended September with P196.0 billion in resources, expanding its balance sheet by 26.3 percent from a year ago. The increase was due mainly to customer loans and trading and investment securities, the bank said.

In terms of asset quality, its bad loan ratio remained one of the lowest among its peers. Nonperforming loans stood at 0.9 percent of total loans while coverage of second loans was at 230 percent.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stood at 18.2 percent of risk assets, suggesting a fundamentally sound capital base allowing for further expansion and growth.

Stocks . . .

From page B1

hang as its main player panics over unrest in the economic reforms required by the bailout package.

The blow-hours industrial index gained 65.15 points or 0.57 percent to 11,968.29.

Overnight, overcoming a rough opening, as Wall Street took hours from an ECB board member's favorable outlook on fiscal resolution in the euro zone over the foreseeable future.

Value turnover at the local market was light at P1.39 billion. There were 74 advancers that outnumbered 58 decliners while 46 stocks were unchanged.

Doris C. Dumlao

Philippine Stock Exchange

As of November 8, 2011

Currencies

Currency	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Euro	1 Euro	1.37	1.3600	57.5175
Japan	Yen	100	0.7978	0.3370
United Kingdom	Pound	1	1.5855	67.0671
Hong Kong	Dollar	1	0.1286	5.4392
Switzerland	Franc	1	1.1825	49.9997
Canada	Dollar	1	0.9633	40.7408
Singapore	Dollar	1	0.7855	33.2243
Australia	Dollar	1	1.0097	42.7075
Taiwan	Dollar	100	3.3127	14.0126
South Korea	Won	1,000	0.8556	36.1868
Brunei	Dollar	1	0.7855	33.2243
Indonesia	Rupiah	1,000	0.1031	4.3610
Thailand	Baht	100	3.2700	13.8296
UAE	Dirham	100	27.2252	11.5148
EU	Euro	1	1.3600	57.5175
Kuwait	Dinar	1	4.8196	203.8333
China	Yuan	1	0.1596	6.7508
Denmark	Krone	1	0.1825	7.7189
Sweden	Krona	1	0.1795	7.5908
Finland	Euro	1	1.3600	57.5175
New Zealand	Dollar	1	0.7829	33.1132
Sweden	Krona	1	0.1795	7.5908
Taiwan	Dollar	1	0.0331	1.4003

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FTI brouhaha

Biz Buzz
By the staff

THE DOF administration's privatization mode for the much-coveted 100-hectare Food Terminal Inc. complex in Taguig is having tough sell-price terms members of people's pity-cry. The Duterte-owner in this prime asset sale is widely believed to be property giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) through a P30-billion joint-venture scheme with the government. But other parties, which submitted a sealed bid for FTI, argue that it was more transparent and financially favorable for the government if it were to bid out the property.

In a phone interview yesterday, Empire East president Charlie Tu noted that although the government could resort to a negotiated deal, given that there were two failed auctions during the previous regime, the business environment has improved greatly since then, and P30b/1-hour has a much better chance of selling this prime asset at a better price.

"We don't know why it has become backchuch. It's just strange that it's so quietly done," Tu lamented. "We feel that public bidding will generate more revenues than a mere dialogue (after accepting unsolicited proposal)."

Whether it will be an asset sale or lease, Tu said the government could take advantage of the fact that there were many parties interested in FTI. Like Tu, other bidders said that if a P30-billion joint venture deal (whether or not with ALI) is

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Model Unit

Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes:

A Distinctly Kid-friendly Community in Manila

Garden Road

Live in a community where your family can experience a life far from ordinary. Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes is the newest residential development in a idyllic community located at the heart of Pasig, Manila. This 2.1 hectare development boasts of unique kid-friendly features in a serene environment suited for a growing family.

Nurturing community. Within its perimeter walls, are lushly garden maid and impressive entrance gate, the Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes exudes a kid-friendly atmosphere. This gated community offers young ones the opportunity and joy to grow, learn and discover given its generous open spaces, well-planned amenities, and modern day conveniences.

At play is considered the most natural childhood game and probably the most therapeutic way to stimulate one's creativity. Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes devotes more than 50 percent open spaces to let the kids get a ballcon-based play or to vandom gardens.

Splashing water at the swimming pool, reading a storybook for the goodness or enjoying ball games on the multi-purpose court are but common activities one may enjoy. In its leisure walk, jogging path and promenade, kids get to enjoy an active and spontaneous play. The indoor game room, multi-purpose hall and clubhouse are for spending the day bonding with loved ones and friends.

Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes is just as ideal when imagination and learning connect with its environment. Lush and nurturing setting. Give may always leave their kids to interact with playmates at the daycare center. Parents or guardians can recharge and destress at the fitness area. These are but a few of the lifestyle amenities readily available to lady residents – kids or otherwise – develop their body and mind.

Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes has successfully created an environment where kids can be kids and where parents and guardians are left with no worries, this exclusive residential development sits nearest of its strategic locations.

Exceptional address. Advantageously situated at the very heart of the country's proud capital - Manila - Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes is an eight-tower development, which typifies a serene and inviting respite from anyday life's hustle and bustle.

It is just a stone's throw away from schools, hospitals, offices, retail establishments, and accessible to major thoroughfares such as Quirino Avenue, UN Avenue, and Rizal Extension Street.

With an unbeatable access to transportation networks, shopping centers and recreation, this residential project serves as a gateway to Makati and Binondo, traveling to and from any business hub makes any parent spend more time with the kids. Time spent on long travels and commuting mostly relegated to the back burner for moments to groom active homework, play time and walk or simply hug families to bed.

Generous living spaces. Just as accommodating as the lush green and colorful blooms surrounding the community are the living spaces. Its unit sizes are masterfully planned especially for couples and growing families. Aside from generous living spaces, each unit boasts of well-crafted kitchen and fittings in stylish designs.

Exclusivity and safety. Modern-day conveniences and top-of-the-line security measures are simply set to ensure the privacy and safety of your home and your family. A well-lighted entrance gate, perimeter fence, CCTV surveillance and intercom are readily available along with security personnel racing 24 hours.

Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes is Manila's first gated garden residential development complete with features like strategic location, complete lifestyle amenities, modern-day conveniences, ample living spaces and world-class security measures. All the more, it is every child-friendly overdrive where he can have a happy growing experience.

A quality development by Horizon Land. Naturally community has an on-site showroom at Quirino Avenue Extension – Otis Bonifacio, Pasig, Manila. Schedule for a property preview now or call 497-8646 or 353-09-16. Horizon Land is a subsidiary of Federal Land, Inc., one of the country's leading property developers and the real estate arm of Metrobank Group.

Model Unit

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BUSINESS

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Money placed in SDA up 78%

By Michelle V. Bueno

MONEY placed by banks in the special deposit account (SDA) facility of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas continued to rise, hitting a new high as of the end of September.

Data from the BSP showed that the banks' SDA deposits hit P1.62 trillion as of end of September, up by some 78 percent from P911 billion a year ago.

Regulators said the rising SDA placements indicated the growing liquidity in the local banking system. SDA pays an interest of 4.5 percent for all maturities.

The BSP said bank customers had been using an account of growing deposits from individual and corporate clients.

Economists said the money in the SDA should be tapped to fund productive activities. Banks are being urged to use more of their money to increase lending activities and help boost economic growth, which showed to the first semester.

The economy, measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP), grew by 4 percent in the first six months of the year, slowing from the over 8 percent a year ago.

In response, industry players said the banking sector had sufficient appetite for lending as shown by the reasonably high pace of credit growth. Industry data showed that the combined loan portfolio of banks in the country grew by 19.6 percent from a year ago, the fastest pace in more than two years.

According to the BSP, there is still some room for banks to further accelerate lending. This is cushioned partly by the considerable amount of money in the SDA facility.

Outstanding loans extended by banks stand at more or less 85 percent of the system's total deposits. Analysts said increasing the loan-to-deposit ratio to 90 or even 95 percent would still be comfortable.

7-yr T-bond yield up 8.3 bps

Rates aligned with secondary market levels

By Raoul W. Dominguez

YIELD on the seven-year treasury bond yesterday hit an average of 5.018 percent, 8.3 basis points higher than the 4.930 percent on the previous issue of the same tenor awarded in August.

Also, yesterday's average was 5.4 basis points higher than the 5 percent fix the corresponding date ended in the secondary market.

The offer was a winner of the seven-year bonds that were first floated on Aug. 16. The bonds have six years and nine months until maturity.

Investors tendered a total of P17.16 billion or more than twice the P5 billion on offer, but the Bureau of the Treasury gave a partial award of P7.02 billion.

Deputy Treasurer Edmundo G. Hermida said in an interview the move was meant to help temper the rise in rates.

"And the BTr gives a full award, the yield would have risen 9.3 basis points to an average of 5.029 percent.

"We aligned the rates to secondary market rates," especially to the yield on corresponding dates deals, Hermida said.

"We did this by limiting the average to 5.018 percent, which is just a reasonable move (to insignificant change)."

He said the results of yesterday's auction reflected "good economic fundamentals, ample liquidity considering that the offer was oversubscribed by more than twice."

Monthly said investors were surprised that the government had a strong cash position, particularly with a 23 percent, year-on-year increase in revenue in January to September.

Last month, financial services firm DBS Group said in a research note that the central bank's focus on economic growth instead of inflation may push down interest rates on government securities.

DBS said that in such a scenario, monetary policy might encourage ample liquidity in the banking system, until growth outlook recovers.

DBS said the shift in the BSP's attention from inflation was shown with its decision not to change its overnight borrowing rate at 4.5 percent.

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Life insurance investment or small business?

Question: Should I invest in a life insurance or use the money to expand my small business?—Mary Anne Hidalgo Tiongco via Facebook

Answer: I was a firm believer of life insurance. I make sure my life insurance policies are always in-force as they give me and my wife peace of mind. With the way I travel and the many hazards I face, this gives me confidence and buried readers. Life insurance is an important risk protection tool for me. Life insurance is first and foremost a tool for risk management by way of a risk transfer mechanism. Simply put, you as life risk cash accidentally death or serious physical breakdown can be assumed by way of an adequate life insurance policy. Since I am married, happily at that, and have four lovely children, having the protection of a life insurance policy is a priority.

Life insurance is an investment is another story. The primary purpose of life insurance is to provide financial protection against life's and last investment risk for a reasonable benefit. It is difficult to compare life insurance with other forms of investments because of the multiple conditions and buried readers. Life insurance is not to deal with actuarial tables and a lot of probabilities because of its primary duties. All these probabilities need to be accounted for and adequate premiums must be made. When you invest in a life insurance policy, not all the money goes to investment as some is allocated for insurance premiums. There are many types of life insurance but

MONEY MATTERS

Ronnel Tiongson

since you are referring to it as an investment, I assume you are talking about the variable universal life or unit-linked insurance—an insurance policy with an attached investment similar to Mutual Funds or Unit Investment Trust Funds. Variable type insurance will not perform as per with investment funds or a UIT because not all the money is invested in the funds ... premiums for insurance purposes are allocated from the money invested and there are increasing charges. The bigger the coverage, the smaller the amount goes to pay's investments. Its advantage, however, is when the insured (or insured) dies, the insured beneficiaries will get both the insurance coverage and investments as well as some which has benefits.

Comparing life insurance and small business is like comparing apples with durian, which are totally apart. Further, the issue of risk and return comes to play in life insurance and business is always risky and speculative. Business is also risky but it usually earns a lot of income and it can substantially grow your capital, albeit all the risk it carries. It's like a lack of insurance as a way to protect future income while business or investment is a way to accumulate income. Which one is better for an investment? Definitely! A good business idea coupled with a good business plan and management. By timing you make your capital grow bigger and faster than paper assets that, in the saving goes the higher the yields, the higher the risks. Most start-ups fail and the percentages of those that succeed is of triple-digit proportions. Further, as we should take a new life insurance with any success and be a full more entrepreneurial—a cliche as it sounds, no guts no glory. And be prudent and know what you are getting into.

Know your objectives. If your objective is substantial capital gain or adequate protection of income, life insurance products are not the answer—business or other investments are. If your objective is moderate capital growth with limited protection against life's risks, then life insurance is something you can consider. Life insurance products are long-term investment.

Should you invest in investment life insurance or business? I say you may need both. If you have loved ones depending on you and your income, you definitely need to assess your life insurance needs. If you are disappointed with the gains you get from other investments like time deposits or special deposit accounts (SDA) over a long run, then life insurance is something to consider.

Ask a friendly reminder before letting go of your hard-earned money, investigate before investing your hard-earned money and if need be, talk to professionals. Remember, prudence is always a good thing.

Catch me at Steps to Financial Peace in Davao—on Nov. 11, 2011, at the CAP Auditorium with Primetime host Jayson Lo.

Ronnel Tiongson is an advocate of JA and personal finance. He is a director of the Association of Financial Planners' Davao chapter. For questions, write to ronnel@ronneltiongson.com.

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Metro Pacific acquires Asian Hospital

From page B1

nor Jr. said the group was excited with its investment in Asian Hospital, one of the premier multi-specialties in the country that is about to complete its 14-story second tower, which will cost about P2.2 billion to build.

"Tower 2 will house an additional 144 beds, outpatient facilities, doctors' clinics, food outlets and even more parking spaces for our customers. This gives us a platform to further grow the health needs of our counterparts in the south of Metro Manila and in Southern Luzon," Pallasigue said.

The expansion will increase the capacity of Asian Hospital to 363 beds.

Under the deal, MPIC will take over control of at least 67 percent of the hospital's shares by buying the following:

- 100 percent of the shares of Bonanzaland International Philippines Inc., which owns 511.58 million shares of the hospital for P732 million;
- 300 percent of the shares of Stephanie Sandra Holdings (40 percent of which is currently owned by Bonanzaland), which owns 472.18 million shares for about P668 million; and
- 30.44 million shares for about P120 million.

The disclosure added that MPIC will assume "at the appropriate time" its intention to conduct a mandatory tender offer for all the remaining Asian Hospital shares held by the public.

The final shareholdings of MPIC in Asian Hospital will depend on the results of the tender offer as the 67-percent control includes only the blocks of shares bought from Bonanzaland.

The transactions were expected to be completed before the end of 2011, the disclosure said.

Based on its latest filing of its audited financial statement at the Securities and Exchange Commission, Asian Hospital had total assets of P6 billion in 2009. On the liability side, it had P2.17 billion in total equity and about P3.42 billion in long-term debt.

The hospital booked a net income of P368 million in 2009, lowering the P393.27-million net loss in the previous year. Its revenue grew, earned from patient services amounted to P1.68 billion for the year, up from P1.6 billion in 2008. Of total turnover, about 91 percent came from the hospital's operations while the balance was from pharmacy sales.

Asian Hospital will be the fourth hospital controlled by MPIC in Metro Manila after Hibiscus Medical Center, Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan, and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Mac Arthur Highway. MPIC has also invested in Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod and Davao Doctors Hospital in Mindanao.

PEACe bonds debate is about sanctity of contracts

From page B1

ate Pantaleon has subscribed the imposition of a 20-percent final withholding tax on the proceeds of the Peso(R) Retail-dollar and Alternate Certificates, more commonly known as the PEACe bonds.

The de facto head of the administration's economic team has been at the forefront of the Aquino administration's crusade against perceived anomalous deals of the previous Palace tenants and is sure that the government did not charge the rules in the tax treatment of the PEACe bonds.

Accordingly, data it was Code-NGO that had changed the rules when it convinced the government in 2005 to issue bonds that were exempt from the maximum 20-percent final withholding tax.

But members the government Code-NGO did, and the Bureau of the Treasury sold off the bonds to buyers then, specifically stating that they were exempt from the 20-percent final withholding tax.

As such, a consortium of banks, which had bought the PEACe bonds, are now questioning the integrity and the trustworthiness of the government's word.

"What my friends asked upon was the consented understanding of the government that the PEACe bonds were not subject to the 20-percent final withholding tax," the banks' lawyer, Ferdinand Lim, told the banker.

The Department of Finance has since said that the tax features of the PEACe bonds were modified by a subsequent Bureau of Internal Revenue ruling that stripped them of their exemption from the final withholding tax.

But for Lim—on reports on capital markets—"whether or not the ruling is subsequently, never correct or not is important as the sanctity of the contractual commitment."

Amid that debate, however, the dock at tick-

Biz Buzz

From page B1

ALE would be reduced, the net present value of the rebates should be compared against outright cash payments already on the table.

Although Empire East itself has no plans of bringing the to court, he said it was possible that other parties would, possibly citing grounds of lack of transparency. If so, the government would only succeed in any court case could delay any deal for years, he said.

If the government could win its garnered more revenues, he said there was another option on the table given the huge interest in PEA that there: some sort with a master plan and parcel out the property to true developers rather than award the huge complex to any single player. —Doris C. Bacolod

Tell me why your guests are...

The inauguration of a showroom for high-end cars and SUVs in Tagaig City a few weeks ago was well attended by the country's who's who, many of whom were also ex-officio, according to our source. That is, it was well intended until some sprinkle guest showed up at the celebration.

Our source said that once the person arrived at the event, people started heading for the door for "thinking out the door" may be the most accurate description, but their presence at that event made them targets for close scrutiny.

Those who managed to escape the pressure were seen signaling their drivers to pick them up either a few meters before the red carpet at the front door or a few meters after that spot, lest they be seen boarding their expensive cars and SUVs. By our estimate, about half of the attendees said would-be buyers of the sparkling new vehicle luxury rides he empowered within a few minutes of the guest starting.

Who was the guest that everyone was afraid

of? Commissioner Kim Henares of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. —Dustin L. Jones

11.11.11

Many travel has been flooding the media with its 11.11.11 sale from TV to newspapers, to online billboards. But what does it all mean? Of course, it's been a year since Jollibee acquired the Hardwood chain and there are several branches going around about the campaign, including the unveiling of a P1.1-billion investment in the community and local economy, Jollibee as it promises to open 10 (000) brands next year.

The chain is also expected to unveil a revamped menu on that date, while some others speculate that it will announce the acquisition of another brand like real restaurant.

Of course the ad also suggests that a famous house would be launched on that brand's new restaurant. By the way, the Bernard's favorite dish is supposedly include Bong Israel's Hibiscus Meal #2 (Buko and banana chop.)

We also heard that Bong Israel may open another 11 branches on the 11th, making it the second biggest restaurant chain under the Jollibee group, next only to the parent brand itself. Jollibee Land is may also open 11 new stores in 11 different locations overnight.

Til next-side our date (Dear, still cannot find employment) will launch a weekly TV show to be "The Apprentice"), where company founder Edgar Sia II—the country's youngest billionaire—display a Donald Trump style rule.

So, what will it be this coming 11.11.11? Maybe all of the above, maybe none of the above. Only three more days till we find out.

—Dustin L. Jones

Got business alerts and/or pictures of life from the evening before it comes out. Text (09 092 3858885) or mail (@NG alert).

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any vitamin blend or premix being sold in the market bearing the brand **Lutavit Blend®** claimed as manufactured by BASF should be treated as counterfeit. BASF has ceased to manufacture and distribute the **Lutavit Blends®** or vitamin premixes and blends. Any person engaging in unauthorized distribution or selling of the said brand and unauthorized use of the BASF logo will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

BASF would like to clarify that it continues to manufacture, use and market the **Lutavit®** brand name for single vitamin products namely: Lutavit A 1000 Plus, Lutavit A500S, Lutavit AD3 1000/200 Plus, Lutavit B2 5G 80, Lutavit Calpan, Lutavit E50, and Lutavit E50S.

For any inquiries, please contact Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc and De los Angeles Law Office at telephone no. 02 848 0114.

PetroEnergy gives up wind energy service contract

Studies show resources insufficient for commercial operations

By Amy R. Remo

PETROENERGY Resources Corp. has relinquished its wind energy service contract in Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, as studies showed that the resources in the area were "insufficient to support commercial operations."

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PetroEnergy said the decision was based on the results of technical studies conducted by PetroEnergy, which covered two years of wind data gathering activities and resource assessment.

The move was approved by the Department of Energy late last month, the company added.

PetroEnergy's contract was awarded in 2009, together with another wind service contract for a prospective area in Nueva Ecija. Based on initial estimates, the company had hoped to put up facilities that could generate 30 megawatts of power each.

Initial measurements yielded promising results but later failed to meet the criteria that would have allowed PetroEnergy to build the wind-to-power plant.

The company spent P800,000 for the feasibility studies of the two proposed wind power projects over the two-year pre-development stage. This was on top of the supposed investments, placed at $4.00 million, to be infused into the planned wind farms.

PetroEnergy did not say whether it was pushing through with the wind power project in Ilocos.

The company is, however, pushing through with its 20-MW geothermal power project on Mt. Makiling through Mechanex Geothermal Inc.

On September, MGI—a consortium composed of PetroEnergy, Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. and PNOC Renewables Corp.—secured a P3.4-billion project loan from two local banks to fund the construction of the geothermal facility.

SC 63 group earmarks P1.8B for drilling

THE JOBO contract operating Service Contract 63 off southwest Palawan plans to spend about P1.8 billion to drill an exploration well by the middle of next year.

In a briefing yesterday, PNOC Exploration Corp. (here and after executive officer) Commodore Lopez Jr. said the amount would be shared equally by the partners in the SC 63 consortium.

PNOC EC, the upstream oil and coal unit of state-run Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC), holds a 50-percent interest and is the operator of the field. The other 50 percent is held by Australian firm Nido Petroleum Ltd.

According to Lopez, PNOC EC's board of directors had approved the allocation of P900 million to fund its share in the drilling operations within a petroleum block, covering 13,000 sq.km.

Both PNOC EC and Nido Petroleum have earlier agreed to enter the subphase of the exploration program with the Department of Energy which calls for the drilling of an offshore exploratory well.

The joint venture already identified the contract rotation to drill the exploration well to be between June and October 2012. However, the final date for spudding a well will depend on the selection of a drill site, identified from a number of prospects by a joint geo-scientific group and rig availability, Lopez explained. — Amy R. Remo

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Geri assuming key role in tourism dev't efforts

Listed firm doubling capital base

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON Andrew Tiaoleel Global-Estate Resorts Inc. has obtained leeway to entice investors in Philippine tourism, or shore, holders approved on Tuesday the doubling of its authorized capital to P10 billion.

The capital hike boosts the ability of Geri, formerly FE Estate Land Inc., to raise fresh funds to develop major leisure-resort communities in its property in Boracay, Tagaytay and Batangas. The reconfiguration is still subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Geri is in a strong position to become a game-changer in Philippine tourism," said company chair Tan. "Through our integrated tourism estate projects, we aim to redefine experiences for foreign visitors and local travelers and, ultimately, uplift the reputation of the country as an international tourist destination."

Given the magnitude of its projects in the pipeline, Geri expects to embark on fundraising in the future, either in the form of debt or equity financing. Raising authorized capital stock ensures that Geri will have enough shares available for issue should it decide to sell equity, the company told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The company plans to develop more than 1,000 hectares of prime property in various tourism hotspots into world-class tourism estates. Its projects include Boracay Newcoast in Boracay and Twin Lakes in Tagaytay.

Boracay Newcoast, the first and so far the only master-planned tourism-oriented community in Boracay, accounts for about 14 percent of the island. , including a 4-kilometer-long white beach, a golf course and a sprawling entertainment center called Newcoast Station, which is being positioned as the new nightlife hub on the island.

Geri expects Boracay Newcoast to help boost the growth of tourism in Boracay.

Twin Lakes is a 1,000-hectare tourism estate in the vicinity of Tagaytay and Lemery, Batangas being developed into a premier medical and educational tourism destination in the country. The property showcases the first and only vineyard in the region.

Court asked to stop Zambo mining ban

By Nico T. Chicondra

TVI RESOURCE Development (Phils.) Inc. said it had sought a temporary restraining order (TRO) "and/or a preliminary injunction" to prevent the implementation of an ordinance banning open pit mining in Zamboanga del Norte province.

Listed firm doubling capital base TVIRI—which operates a mineral development operations in Siris Countryside, Brgy. Tabayo, Bocawan, Zamboanga del Norte—filed in Pagadian City the case "against any officers, agents, employees, representatives and anyone acting on behalf and within the control of Zamboanga del Norte from implementing an ordinance banning open pit mining in the province."

In its pleading, TVIRI said, it "seeks to declare the Zamboanga del Norte ordinance as unconstitutional and invalid." The firm argued that the ordinance violates the due process, equal protection and non-impairment of contracts clauses of the 1987 Constitution.

The company noted that the ordinance was contrary to the applicable provisions of the Local Government Code and the Mining Act, and runs counter to the public policies espoused in these laws.

"The ordinance would also adversely affect the indigenous people who own the ancestral domain where the mining project is situated, the communities and barangays that benefit through the operation and social development programs, and the national government, as it stands to lose not only the revenues from the mining operations but also taxpayers in order to encourage foreign and private sector investment in the mining industry," TVIRI stressed.

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Australian Government
Aid Program

SPECIALIST – LOCAL GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is responsible for the delivery of Australia's Development Cooperation Program to the Philippines, one of the largest aid programs in the Philippines. AusAID is looking for an experienced, enthusiastic and innovative person to fill the Local Governance (LG) Specialist position in the Sub-National Portfolio team.

The LG Specialist will contribute to the efficient and effective delivery of AusAID's program in the Philippines, by providing expert advice on local governance issues to the Sub-National Portfolio team, other portfolio teams, and senior managers at the Manila Post. The LG Specialist's expertise on local governance issues will assist in shaping AusAID's strategies and approaches to strengthen the governance capacities of local government units and civil society organisations at the sub-national level; contributing to the design of a major new sub-national program; identifying opportunities to achieve greater convergence of AusAID's sub-national programs across all portfolios; supporting AusAID's dialogue with stakeholders and partners on sub-national strategies, plans, programs and initiatives for improving and strengthening local governance; and shaping an analytical and research agenda on the factors associated with governance and reform processes, poverty reduction and better service delivery at the sub-national level.

Selection Criteria
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons, with local nationals being encouraged to apply. This is an Overseas-based employee position and not an Australian Public Service position. Further details on job description and selection criteria for the position can be accessed under job vacancies at http://www.ahlaanaustralia.com/careers.aspx

Conditions of Contract
The Position will be a full-time position based in AusAID's Manila office, with a fixed term 12 month employment contract (and the possibility of a 12 month extension). The successful candidate is expected to commence as soon as possible. The commencing salary of Php175,000 per month is negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience, with entitlements to leave, comprehensive health insurance and other conditions.

Expressions of Interest
Interested applicants must address the selection criteria (2-3 pages) and detail suitability to perform the duties of the position including personal qualities, experience, skills and knowledge. All applications should be forwarded to: The PCCO, 9th Floor, Salcedo Towers, 169 H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Philippines, or at ips_careers@ipcco.org.ph on or before Wednesday, 23 November 2011. Please include a curriculum vitae, and two (2) work-related referral letters (preferably from current supervisor and addressing the criteria). Do not send copies of academic transcripts, awards, degrees, or published papers. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Envelopes should be clearly marked "Specialist – Local Governance / AUSAID". Due to volume of applications, AusAID will only contact shortlisted applicants.

AusAID is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and maintains a smoke-free working environment.

Australian Government
Aid Program

SPECIALIST – EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is responsible for the delivery of Australia's Development Cooperation Program to the Philippines, one of the largest aid programs in the Philippines. AusAID is looking for an experienced, enthusiastic and innovative person to fill the Education Specialist position in the Education Portfolio team.

The Education Specialist will contribute to the efficient and effective delivery of AusAID's program in the Philippines, by providing expert advice on education issues in the Education Portfolio team, other portfolio teams, and senior managers at the Manila Post. The Education Specialist's expertise on education issues will assist in supporting AusAID's broad basic education reform program; and its program of education to Muslim and Indigenous Peoples including basic education in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM); contributing to the planning, design, implementation and review of education initiatives; supporting AusAID's dialogue with stakeholders and partners on education strategies, plans, programs and initiatives; and contributing to an analytical and research agenda on education issues.

Selection Criteria
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons, with local nationals being encouraged to apply. This is an Overseas-based employee position and not an Australian Public Service position. Further details on job description and selection criteria for the position can be accessed under job vacancies at: http://www.ahlaanaustralia.com/careers.aspx/education.html

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The Position will be a full-time ongoing position based in AusAID's Manila office. The successful candidate is expected to commence as soon as possible. The commencing salary of Php175,000 per month is negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience, with entitlements to leave, comprehensive health insurance and other conditions.

Expressions of Interest
Interested applicants must address the selection criteria (2-3 pages) and detail suitability to perform the duties of the position including personal qualities, experience, skills and knowledge. All applications should be forwarded to: The PCCO, 9th Floor, Salcedo Towers, 169 H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Philippines, or at ips_careers@ipcco.org.ph on or before Wednesday, 23 November 2011. Please include a curriculum vitae, and two (2) work-related referral letters (preferably from current supervisor and addressing the criteria). Do not send copies of academic transcripts, awards, degrees, or published papers. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CEBU
Office of the Provincial Treasurer
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Province of Cebu, through the 2011 Budget intends to apply the following sum being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the following projects:

Bib. No.	Particulars	Purpose	Funding (Source/ Statutory Policy)	ABC (Php)	Bid Fee (Php)
11-0288	To supply and deliver including installation, monitoring of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)	For Cebu Provincial Hospital-Carcar, Cebu	Local Funds/ Provincial Hospital-Carcar, Cebu Internal Sources	3,178,646.28	2,000.00
11-0292	To supply and deliver one (1) unit of Laboratory Equipment (UNIMED 3000(S) IN-VITRO DIAGNOSTIC ANALYZER)			2,297,900.00	2,000.00
11-0291	To supply and deliver one (1) unit of Laboratory Equipment (Hematology Analyzer 3-part Differential Cell Counter, Manual Mode, Whole Blood, Pre-diluted Body Fluids, Up to 60 Samples per Hour, Accepts 5 to 100 Samples in Rack, Loaded in Cartridges, PM – comprehensive 4 scheduled)	For Bhutan, Bantay, Bogo, Carmen, Carcar, Cebu Provincial Hospital-Carcar, Cebu	Local Funds/ Provincial Hospital-Carcar, Cebu Internal Sources	2,160,616.00	2,000.00

Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The Province of Cebu through its Bids and Awards Committee may invoke its power to reject any and all bids(s) of the aforementioned Equipment/s if Bidder/s has/have not complied within the 21 Days from the date of submission of bid, any change in price, or submission of bid with alteration/s or an irregular bidder in accordance to the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to domestic entities duly licensed and recognized by the Department of Trade and Industry: Provided, however, that the Government of the Philippines may enter into joint venture or consortium agreement with foreign entities, as allowed under the conditions provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee and view the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested Bidders on September 7, 2011 until November 22, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents, as indicated above.

5. The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at the BAC Conference Room, 2nd Floor, EGG Building, Capitol Compound, Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City, which shall be open to prospective bidders and non-government organizations as a commitment to the Bidding Documents, as indicated above.

6. Bids must be delivered to the BAC Committee Secretariat Room, EGG Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City on or before 2:00 PM on November 22, 2011. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

7. **Bid opening** shall be on **Tuesday, at 2:00 P.M.** on **November 22, 2011** at the BAC Conference Room, EGG Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City. Bidders are encouraged to attend the opening but only the bidders or their duly authorized representatives who declare to attend Calendar shall be accepted.

8. The Province of Cebu reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept the most advantageous to the Government, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Cheryll Acedo
BAC Secretariat
7th Floor, Capitol Building, Cebu City
Telefax No. (032) 253-2615
www.cebu.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ROY S. SALUDO
Chairman

(Post November 9, 2011)

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- Training : 120 hours of managerial/leadership training
- Eligibility : Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE) / Career Executive Service (CES)

Those who are qualified may apply or be nominated for the position. A letter of application or nomination must be submitted together with curriculum vitae with (a) photo indicating applicant's education, training, awards, positions held, etc.), transcript of records and diploma to the Human Resource Management Unit, Finance and Administration Division, 3rd Level, Roman Ramos Bldg., DOST Compound, Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig City not later than 26 November 2011.

Previous applicants need not apply

(Sgd.) **FORTUNATO T. DELA PEÑA**
Undersecretary for S&T Services, DOST and
Chairman, Search Committee for SEI Deputy Director

(Post November 9, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VII, Central Visayas
Cebu Normal University
Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City

INVITATION FOR CHANGE OF DEBIT BANK

Gentlemen:

Please be informed that the Cebu Normal University (CNU) has changed its depository bank from Land Bank of the Philippines to Development Bank of the Philippines effective November 2011.

In view thereof, we would like to request your kind assistance to change the debit bank of the following payroll accounts:

Payroll No.	Account No.
2011-11-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0
2011-11-2	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0
2011-11-3	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

Thank you very much.

(Sgd.) ANNA MARIE ESPINOSA
Cashier

(Post November 9, 2011)

CALL PERA
Text 2600 to 2600

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

(Post November 9, 2011)

OBITUARIES

LUIS ORLANDO CECILIA ARIAS

passed away in the State of our Lord on November 7, 2011 at the age of 52.

In loving memory of: his wife Elinor; children Luigi & Marianne; Raymond, Vince & Mr. Nicole; Elena & Danny; and Nicole; his grandchildren Kaden, Bella, Dane and Diego; his relatives and friends request the prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the **Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc.**, Sanson Subdivision, Cebu City.

Interment will be on Friday, November 11, 2011 at the Arlington Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Interment of Aslan Ashmen at the Sanctuario de los Cirios Parish, San Juan.

In Loving Remembrance of

Rosalina Asejo Bañares

Sept. 02, 1949 – Nov. 08, 1997

On the anniversary of her death, her loved ones asks the grace together to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

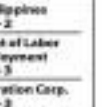
"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4

"...absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

More Classifieds

BASF Philippines B2-2
Department of Labor and Employment B3-3
PHOC Exploration Corp. B3-3
San Jose Del Monte City Water District B3-3
Supreme Court of the Phils. B3-3
Supreme Court of the Phils. B3-3
University of Southeastern Philippines B3-3

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
CONDO/TOWNHOUSE
APARTMENT
LOAN & MORTGAGE
TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT
CAR LOAN
GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE
OTHER EQUIPMENT
PUBLIC NOTICES
LEGAL NOTICE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
LOST
REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
CONDO/TOWNHOUSE



Exports seen to dip by 19.5% in Sept.

By Barrie W. Dumlao

Philippine exports may have contracted by 19.5 percent year-on-year in September due to the rapid global slowdown for electronics, according to DBS Group.

The financial services firm said in a new research note that the country's export performance in September will be worse than the 17.5-percent contraction reported in August.

DBS said that with base effects easing unfavorable—meaning that last year's figures would be difficult to outdo—the project decrease in outbound shipments for September would be much milder.

"Export performance thus far this year has been appalling," the group said. "In the first eight months of the year, exports were up by less than one percent. Until completion of the peak in September 2008, exports were shrinking by over 20 percent in August."

Contraction in trade expected to be worse than that of Aug.

DBS blamed the development on weak electronics shipments which, over the same time period, were down by close to 40 percent.

The group said that overall export has been buoyed by non-electronics shipments and that unquestionably, in comparing successive months, a seasonal pickup should start to materialize from September to November.

"However, the expected rebound will be tempered by the muted market volatility and persistently weak global demand for electronics," DBS added.

In September 2010, said Philippine export revenues could grow by only 2 percent in 2011 as semi-electronic goods were seen to continue the drop in demand for electronics exports.

The forecast is much lower than the government's original export growth target of 20 percent this year.

Last month, DBS Group said it lowered its growth forecast for the Philippines to 2013 to 4.6 percent from 4.8 percent mainly because of the country's export earnings.

"Now, with a expected [illegible] in outbound shipments through the rest of this year, we [illegible] annual export growth is going to be anemic and may even dip into negative territory," it said.

The group said that with shipment orders for Asia's manufactured commodities be still dipping in September, prospects for a meaningful uptick in electronics exports would be limited.

DBS said the bright spot in the economy for rich domestic demand. Remittances, despite the current crisis, remained relatively resilient, it added.

However, DBS said domestic demand growth would not be sufficient to offset the downward trade route being entered on the local economy due to its export-oriented.

PHOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PHOC

INVITATION TO BID

[illegible]

Project Name:	[illegible]
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):	[illegible]
Completion Period:	[illegible]
Date of Opening:	[illegible]

[illegible]

Schedule of Bid Documents:	Amount in ₱ (P)
Pre-Bid Conference:	[illegible]
Submission and Opening of Bids:	[illegible]
Bid Evaluation:	[illegible]
Post-Qualification:	[illegible]
Contract Award:	[illegible]

[illegible]

(Sgd.) CHARINA M. MASSIMO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(BAC-Resolution 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. XII
3rd Floor, Mary G. Roy Bldg., Koronadal City
Tel/Fax No.: (083) 228-8102
November 9, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

	Name and Address of Company	Job Position/Title (Number of Positions)
1.	[illegible]	[illegible]
2.	[illegible]	[illegible]
3.	[illegible]	[illegible]
4.	[illegible]	[illegible]

ATTY. EDGARDO A. MARTINEZ JR. (CESO III)
Regional Director

San Jose del Monte City Water District
Poblacion 1, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

Engr. Jose Ian Morelos City Water District
Brgy. 1, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, 3024
Telefax Number: (044) 816-0691 / 816-0692
Mobile No.: 09209154328
Landline No.: 044-816-0691
E-mail Address: sjdcwd@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) CHARINA M. MASSIMO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(ITB-Resolution 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES
Bajada, Davao City

INVITATION TO BID

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USP), Bajada, Davao City, through the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Technical Support Office (TSO) invites bids for the procurement of [illegible] under the Modernization Act (RA) Project 2 (PMO) [illegible] Interested bidders may obtain further information from the USP Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

Item No.	Description
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

Location:	[illegible]
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):	[illegible]
Source of Funds:	[illegible]
Contract Duration:	[illegible]

[illegible]

Activities	Date and Time	Place
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNULFO ESCITA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(BAC-Resolution 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
SUPREME COURT
Manila

Procurement of Various Steel Cabinets for the Lower Courts

The Supreme Court intends to apply, through the Continuing Appropriations of the Lower Courts on Functions and Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2009 (R.A. No. 9524), the sum of Twenty Million Eight Hundred Eight Thousand Pesos (₱20,808,000.00) inclusive of Value-Added Tax (VAT), being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), to procure or undertake the contract(s) for the Procurement of Various Steel Cabinets for the Lower Courts.

The Supreme Court Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (SC-BAC-GS) now invites bids for the above-stated procurement. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, contracts similar to the Project. The description of projects similar to contract(s) for the Bidding Documents, particularly in terms of nature and scope, and other requirements, are indicated in the Instructions to Bidders. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the SC-BAC-GS Secretariat, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting November 8, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Supreme Court, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Supreme Court will conduct a Pre-Bid Conference on November 15, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at the Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila, which is open only to prospective bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before November 28, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall immediately follow at the Old Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila. Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to attend at the given address.

The SC-BAC-GS reserves the right to (1) reject any and all bids at any time prior to the award of the contract, (2) waive any minor formal requirements in the bid documents, (3) accept and consider bids complete in substance as a basis of evaluation of bids, (4) waive any defect in the form or lack of completeness of bids, (5) not award the contract, and (6) make no declaration that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to the:
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (SC-BAC-GS) Secretariat
Office of ADM Thelma C. Bahia
2/F Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila
Telefax No.: 536-0231

(Sgd.) THELMA C. BAHIA
Assistant Court Administrator and
Chairperson, SC-BAC-GS

(ITB-Resolution 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
SUPREME COURT
Manila

Procurement of ICT Equipment for the Supreme Court and the Lower Courts

The Supreme Court intends to apply, through the Judiciary Development Fund, the sum of Eighty Two Million Ninety-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Pesos (₱82,098,416.00) inclusive of Value-Added Tax (VAT), being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the items indicated in the Schedule of Requirements under the Contract for the Procurement of ICT Equipment for the Supreme Court and the Lower Courts.

The Supreme Court Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (SC-BAC-GS) now invites bids for the above-stated procurement. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, contracts similar to the Project. The description of projects similar to contract(s) for the Bidding Documents, particularly in terms of nature and scope, and other requirements, are indicated in the Instructions to Bidders. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the SC-BAC-GS Secretariat, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting November 8, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (₱15,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Supreme Court, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The SC-BAC-GS will hold the Pre-Bid Conference on November 15, 2011, Office of ADM Thelma C. Bahia, 1st Floor, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila at 2:30 p.m., which shall be open only to all prospective bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before November 28, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall immediately follow at the Old Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila. Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to attend at the given address.

The SC-BAC-GS reserves the right to (1) reject any and all bids at any time prior to the award of the contract, (2) waive any minor formal requirements in the bid documents, (3) accept and consider bids complete in substance as a basis of evaluation of bids, (4) waive any defect in the form or lack of completeness of bids, (5) not award the contract, and (6) make no declaration that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to the:
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (SC-BAC-GS) Secretariat
Office of Assistant Court Administrator Thelma C. Bahia
2/F Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila
Telefax No.: 536-0231

(Sgd.) THELMA C. BAHIA
Assistant Court Administrator and
Chairperson, SC-BAC-GS

(ITB-Resolution 4, 2011)

BUSINESS

Loss of ecozone power perks shakes up exporters

By Abigail L. Ho

SUBJECT saddled with numerous problems, exporters now have to deal with another headache upon learning that the government has decided to discontinue the special discounted power rates for economic zone locators once the agreement between the National Power Corp. and Manila Electric Co. lapses on Dec. 25.

Philippine Exporters Confederation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis lamented that power rates in the country were already among the highest in the world. Taking away the special economic zone would make it even harder for exporters to cope with rising costs amid stiffer competition in the global arena.

"Some of our exporters are relying on the continuation of (the special economic zone). Without this, our competitiveness in inviting investors will suffer even further," Ortiz-Luis said in a telephone interview yesterday. "Those who are already here are now rethinking plans to expand and make new investments. We can't afford high power, that's what investors say."

Also, many exporters are now exploring their options in Vietnam and Indonesia, while some have actually opened their operations here and transferred elsewhere in the region, he added.

The Subic-based locator, for example, has already lost some exporters and is bound to lose more, Ortiz-Luis said, declining to name the specific firms that had caused operations here and those that were thinking of leaving the country in the near future.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. president Emmanuel Ledesma Jr. had earlier said that the special economic zones would no longer be entitled, despite separate appeals from Manalo and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to extend the perks by a year.

Ledesma said it was "no longer reasonable for us to renew the power supply contract with (Meralco) given the financial supply that PSALM currently has and the high operating costs of generating power from the remaining government-owned plants in Luzon."

The Interim Rate Program, which took effect in 2007, will cease when the transition supply contract between Meralco and Masinloc expires on Dec. 25.

Globe saw lower profit, record revenue in Q3

By Paolo G. Montecillo

NETWORK giant Globe Telecom Inc. posted lower profit in the third quarter of the year, even though its revenue rose to a record high driven by growth in its mobile business.

But earnings growth for the January to September period was healthy at 7 percent as the rise in revenue compensated for the overall rise in operating and depreciation charges, as well as non-operating expenses.

"We are pleased to have sustained our momentum and extended our gains into this third quarter, despite a very challenging competitive environment," Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu said. "Our mobile business has reversed the declines of last year, while our broadband business continues to deliver improved profitability with its growing scale."

The company's third quarter-end core profitability income slipped slightly to P2.396 billion from P2.42 billion last year, although nine-month profits rose to P6.16 billion from P5.4 billion.

The company said its mobile business, which accounted for about 80 percent of consolidated revenues, delivered strong results, anchored on the continued growth of domestic core services such as voice and text messaging, coupled with the rapid rise in mobile browsing usage.

Globe said its cost base grew 15 percent from last year's 28.4 million and base operator's 20.1 million. Mobile revenue rose to P58.7 billion as of end-September, up 7 percent from last year's P27 billion.

The firm added that subscription to its broadband Internet rose by more than a third from last year to 1.6 million in the same quarter.

More durable infra needed to stabilize food prices

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES needs stronger and more durable methodological and logistical infrastructure, particularly in the trade and food production hubs, to stabilize prices amid vulnerability to the impact of "external factors" such as climate change, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. said in a statement.

"The establishment of climate-resilient agriculture infrastructure through enhanced technical design of irrigation and drainage systems and facilities, development of farm-to-market roads and post-harvest facilities and trading posts ... would substantially raise productivity and facilitate the delivery of goods and services," said Paderanga, who is also secretary general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The National Statistics Office earlier reported that increases in the prices of food, cellulose and fuel helped the country's overall inflation to 5.2 percent this October from that of the same month last year. Despite the surge in prices, Neda noted that year-to-date inflation, based on 2006 prices, still stood at 4.8 percent.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics reported high retail price increases for tropical vegetables in the first week of October due to typhoons.

Also, Paderanga said budget deficit had been reduced considerably because of flooding in Pangasinan and Bulacan, leading to higher market prices.

Philodrill reported 159% surge in net income in Q1-Q3

By Amy R. Remo

PUBLICLY listed Philodrill Corp. posted a 159-percent surge in its net income to P927 million in the first nine months of the year from P360 million a year-ago, due to higher oil prices.

In a filing with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philodrill reported that its total revenue for the first three quarters ending in September also jumped by 80 percent to P1.372 billion from P747.9 million during the same period last year.

The bulk of the revenue came from petroleum sales, which rose by 73 percent to P1.258 billion from last year's P726.9 million.

"The increase was brought about by the higher average price per barrel of $113.33 for the period ending on Sept. 30, 2011, as compared with $78.38 (a barrel) for the same period last year," the company reported.

Volume of production, however, fell by 17 percent to 1.97 million barrels for the first nine months, from 2.38 million barrels produced during the same period last year. The decrease was due to the decline in the average production at the Galoc oil field to only 6,832 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) from 8,349 BOPD in the same period last year.

Also, Philodrill reported that it recorded net foreign exchange gains of P11 million for the first three quarters of 2011, a turnaround from the net loss of P8.3 million during the same period last year.

Arya Residences: Future proof connectivity at the speed of light

Fiber optic backbone allows reliable, seamless triple play for communication and home automation

Imagine a future where keeping in touch with friends and loved ones from across the globe is as easy as talking to someone just across the room. Picture a home where on-demand entertainment is as painless as pressing a button anytime you want, whatever you want. Picture your business always real-time, night or day, and keep everything in control at your fingertips.

Well and smart, isn't it?

Imagine no more. Experience that future ready home in Arya Residences – a world class, 43-storey development rising along prestigious McKinley Parkway in Bonifacio Global City. It is the premier development of Arthaland Corporation, a trailblazing player in the country's luxury residences industry.

Designed to accommodate tomorrow's technology, Arya Residences will employ a fiber optic backbone to allow fast, seamless, and reliable entertainment and communications connections to its residents' convenience. This facility designed in collaboration with Cisco and managed by IP-Converge, will allow broadband bandwidth for telephone, cable TV, and internet services.

"This technology also allows flexibility and cost efficiency. Residents will have the option to choose the most suitable bandwidth for internet to design the cable or pay per view roster of channels on cable TV. Crisp sound and video quality is assured. Service interruption will be a thing of the past as the deployment of technology used by major ISPDs will be employed to keep your homes connected all the time.

All these in just one interface, no need to talk to multiple providers, no confusing bills, but reliable customer service, and zero lag time. And with IP-Converge's bulk buying system, residents will enjoy a lower monthly fee.

"It's the way to building a magic highway into the building, information and entertainment at the speed of light. Zero traffic, no hassle, and ready for the next packet technological adventure of the future," declares Felix Hagad, Arthaland's Senior VP for Project and Business Development. "This will upgrade not residents' way of enjoying the benefits of technology from high definition video streaming, high fidelity telephony as well as personalized entertainment options. The flexibility of this advanced technology even gives our residents the option to optimize mobile home management with the use of their own mobile devices," Felix further stressed.

At the end of the day, all these technology, our features that we apply your home with should translate to your total Living Experience. Think, luxury living personified. This is why we give you the liberty to choose whatever you want, when you want it, and how you want it," Felix concludes.

For acquainting a future ready home, visit the Arya Residences Model Units at the Arthaland Sales Pavilion, McKinley Parkway cor. 7th Ave., BGC. To get there from EDSA: Ayala Ave. take McKinley Road towards BGC. From 26 Road Makati, take the Kalayaan flyover to the 32nd St., BGC then turn right at 7th Ave. towards McKinley Parkway. Call 856-ALTOGRAND

MOTORING

Editor Jong N. Amano

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF AUTOMOTIVE HERITAGE AND EXCELLENCE AT THE
Chevy Autocama
HAPPENING ON NOV. 11 TO 13 AT THE MUSIC HALL OF SM MALL OF ASIA
JOIN US AND ENJOY GAMES, RAFFLES, PRIZES, ICONIC VINTAGE CARS AND TEST DRIVE THE LATEST CHEVY VEHICLES!
CHEVROLET

Flood of opportunities

Local parts makers seen to benefit from Thai problems

By Tess R. Salazar

THE AUTOMOTIVE industry in Thailand has been badly affected by some of the worst flooding the country has ever experienced. Some manufacturers, though, suffered more than others, such as Honda and the technopark Rojana industrial Estate, which is home to auto parts makers that supply many carmakers in Asia.

A few things you may not know about Mika Hakkinen

The Flying Finn 'Keeps Walking' as Johnnie Walker invites INQUIRER Motoring for a Q&A with the two-time F1 World Champion

By Alvin Uy and Jason E. Jay

THE HISTORY of Formula One from 1995 to 2000 was defined by the rivalry between Mika Hakkinen and Michael Schumacher. The flying Finn behind the wheel of the silver-and-black McLaren-Mercedes and the Michelangelo piloting the blood-red Ferrari made for many a legendary race. Mika's simultaneous pairs of Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello in Spa's Rainwall tonight is still hailed as the greatest overtake in modern F1.

After retirement from F1, Mika has since hit hard at DTM racing and is now a brand ambassador for Johnnie Walker. Together they promote responsible drinking, ongoing campaigns to never drink and drive. Looking fit and relaxed in a black shirt with Discreet Johnnie Walker logo on the collar, the double world champion joined us for a look back at his career and insight as to what motivates him these days.

AE: What is a good age to get into karting as a starting point for a serious career in racing?

I would not have been a Formula One driver if I did not go into go-karting. I would not have created a racing career serious enough to go karting. With that you learn the rules and technique of driving. With that you learn the skills, your talent and understand what is the time of competition. You learn to win and to lose, with that as a child you carry that when you move to the bigger formulas. Every age is good in my opinion but it depends when is the purpose of the exercise. If it is just for fun it doesn't matter how old you are. It's a good exercise for the body and mind, it relaxes you and its good fun. If you want to put your child to karting and be going to be a racer, you will have to start around 6- or 7-years old but not as a absolute rule.

AE: Are your children into the sport?

Absolutely! My son Hugo is racing already. He started around 4-years old. My daughter, who is 6-years old now and she also wants to do racing. But I am not to keen on that (laughs).

JE: Will you allow your children to go all out into racing as a career?

Well, I am a very permissive person. But this where I might put my daughter to try racing and karting and see how she likes it. I hope she doesn't like it too much! (laughs)

JE: On a more serious note, just last month we had some fatalities in motorsports—Marco Simoncelli in MotoGP and Dan Wheldon the lady 500 driver, despite all the advances in safety. What are your thoughts on this?

Yes, it is always hard to find the words when a driver gets killed. It's always hard to find the words to say anything. Very often people they react in say the words to say anything. They react in say the words, this is dangerous, we have to do something. But it is too late. The reality is that you constantly have to improve on safety, whatever the sport. You have to focus on safety. Like we do with the campaign never drink and drive. We keep going year after year, we create new ideas to increase the people to understand that why we want to create the emotion and feeling to understand what is this and to make the public understand the seriousness of this message.

We always have to create new ways to improve safety and to Formula One racing since the death of (Roland) Ratzenberger, Ayrton Senna, even I had a bad accident, so they really started developing safety features in Formula One. That way it is not only the human cars on the race track but also the safety in motor racing to make sure the drivers are more secured.

AE: Were your personal experiences one of the main reasons why you joined the safety campaign with Johnnie Walker?

In my career I had a number of accidents for different reasons. Tires failing off, steering wheel comes off, completely amazing situations where I just become a passenger to my car on having side to control. And to had been very grateful especially once and so I know what it means by not being in control of my car. So when you drink and drive you are not in control. So when I was chatting about all these connections with my experiences of driving it made me to say yes. I want to be part of this campaign and this journey. I want to make people aware of this danger. I had a big accident in 1995, they were never really pleasant. Whether big ones or small ones, they always leave you a scar. I don't mean the physical one but a mental one. You have to work very hard to get over it. You just have to be strong. "Keep Walking!"

THE FLYING Finn is flanked by Charina Palanca (second from left) and Diageo-Philippines managing director Arif Enver (second from right), marketing manager Fe Mir and commercial manager Rommel Turingan.

MIKA meets with members of the local press upon arrival at Ayala Triangle.

THE HEROES? Dave Johnson Walker surrounds competing Ayala Avenue in Makati broke "Never Drink and Drive" mannequin.

"We always have to create new ways to improve safety," says Hakkinen as he signs autographs for fans.

Winning the Monaco Grand Prix in 1998 was definitely the highlight of my racing career. Because I have been living in Monaco for 20 years and it is my hometown. It is a small city, and everyone knows each other. They know me, I know everybody. It doesn't matter if it is the police, fire brigade or the people in the restaurants, even private people. I know the system there. So it was great to win over there.

AE: You made your famous overtaking move at the Spa. Is that your favorite track?

I would say the Spa is definitely would be the most exciting track for me. It is the most enjoyable track for me. It is the longest track in Formula One, it is 7 kilometers long. The circuit is up and down, big differences in the height of the track. It is not the reason for my answer but it really is such a great circuit. That grand prix has a very relaxed atmosphere.

For the newer Formula ones I would see that they look quite fun. High speed circuits, you have to be really precise with the car, and with the line you are taking. But when I look at the new circuits, it is always difficult. The circuits are always look dirty and slippery. I would say Abu Dhabi would be a nice circuit. It is a nice place. I think India also would be quite interesting.

JE: Michael Schumacher is still racing in Formula One. He is probably your greatest rival and have you ever thought that you could still be doing Formula One racing?

No, I have not thought about it that way. But I could do Formula One. But in which level of commitment for me to able to perform in Formula One? That is a different story. I have three children. I have fantastic companies like the one I am doing with Johnnie Walker, with Mercedes-Benz, with Siemens, taking part in driver's management, so I have a lot of things to say. By plate, very enjoyable things. So do I have the energy to do Formula One to the level of what I would like to do? The answer is no.

AE: Schumacher was quoted as requesting you the same among all the Formula One drivers. What are your thoughts on this?

If you would ask me that question many years ago, I would have rubbished and say really! (laughs hard) But the time has gone past and the more you have time to think things, it is better. We had great competitions, we drove very hard with each other's performances, the style of working and what we do with the teams. We had a great fight in the race track without any collision. Michael and I know why. And I am very glad to hear it from Michael because I feel the same way. Particularly now, because we are both part of Mercedes-Benz. I am its ambassador globally and I am the ambassador for AMG in China, and Michael is working for Mercedes-Benz as well. So it is good teamwork.

AE: What is in your daily driver back home?

I have three kids and I need a big space. I drive a Mercedes-Benz GL myself. I travel quite a lot from Monaco to Italy and I have thousands of kilometer I need to go so I need a car which is good for the journey. I recommend the GL. It is a fantastic car.

AE: David Coulthard was here a few weeks back. He is also a Mercedes guy. Your thoughts about him?

We rode together in Mille Miglia and I loved to such a historic personality. He is a funny guy but had a good time in race, we have known each other for many, many years. Why was he here?

AE: Mika hits Asia does to promote TW food brand to Manila.

Fantastic. Here, I got one myself. (showed the watch he was wearing)

Land Rover, Air Asia back PH bid in RFC Malaysia

By Tessa R. Salazar

IF THERE are two sports Filipinos should excel in, these are motoring (we're not talking about the sound) by the sea, by the way), and offroad driving.

Offroading professionals give us two compelling reasons: Filipinos are inherently good drivers and navigators, and, well, just look at our roads (especially the provincial ones), for the lack of them. Taking it over a level up, Bobby Cavanagh, of-founder per excellence and Rainforest Challenge (RFC) representative to the Philippines, said that the country could be the perfect base for international offroad competitions. Organizers need not spend to develop an offroading venue, as 60 percent of the country's total road network is in rural settings, and 90 percent of those roads are actually unpaved.

"That's wishful thinking for the enthusiasts. But in any world-class Pinoy offroading teams will have to prove their mettle somewhere else.

"In Malaysia, for example, The Rainforest Challenge of Malaysia...where the Philippine team climbed the first runner up title in overall standing last year at Johor Bahru—will once more commence. And near the Pinoy team to compete again.

Land Rover Philippines (LR-Phils) Motaz Ha'l has supported the Philippine team for years. Even better news is that another company, AirAsia Philippines, will literally give the team a big lift. The two major sponsors have teamed up and launched their 2012 line-up into Land Rover headquarters at the Bonifacio Global City where will soon be known as the Team Air Asia—Land Rover Philippines 4x4 team.

The team will be composed of multi-awarded off-roading father and son duo "Typhoon" Larry Mendiola (driver) and Hiroyan Mendiola (co-driver and wrench-man).

Thethree-land and M&A General Assurance Philippines are also team sponsors.

The Mendiolas will be driving a Land Rover Defender 90 powered by a 3.0-liter V6 gasoline engine, known worldwide for its legendary offroading ability.

"We never lost faith as the Land Rover even though there were highly modified and bigger type vehicles in the competitions that made the race extra challenging and exciting at the same time," said Larry.

The Mendiolas said that Defender is an excellent team, with Larry joking that it would be easy to shoot at his son for interviews and Hiroyan saying that he knows right away when Larry wants him to do.

Cavanagh said this competition would be a platform to showcase Filipino skills, citing the ingenuity of the local brand of team and machine. He added that aside from requiring professional-level offroading skills, the competition, which would be held in a jungle, would also require each team to be self-sufficient, and be equipped with survival skills. Sometimes, Cavanagh stated, himself being a veteran of RFCs, the hardest choices would be which to bring more, fuel for the machine or drinking water for humans.

Last year's RFC was held in Pahang, Indonesia. This time, participants will be treated in Terengganu, but a period of 10 days (Dec. 3 to 12), offroaders and their machines will be tested to the limits, as the course promises to be one of the world's longest and toughest extreme 4x4 competitions.

MacGyver during-do

From outside of home, Pinoy drivers stand out, Cavanagh recalls. "We (we known, is always) have the 'remedyo' attitude" or the "MacGyver" attitude. Instead of replacing broken down parts, which would naturally be the practice (among more well-equipped teams), we're the only ones using welding and (instead of replacement parts)."

He said that a British pro manager in 2008 once called the Philippine team's troubleshooting methods "Bodrum mechanics". That year, during the 8th day of the competition, a Dutch team vehicle's starter cranked out, and the European team was about to quit the race. The Philippine team (which included Larry), who was rubberneckng ("nadidinig nya") at the time, alongside heard it and told the Dutch that they could fix the starter. When it was fixed, Larry told the surprised Dutch team that the starter was good for another 500 years. On the 18th day the Dutch approached the Philippine team and laughed that they still had 140 days left.

Cavanagh added that the "very amicable" Philippine team also won the team spirit award in 2008. The team, he said, has been locked up in at the SFC Community, and commander Bennie Javier has often been consulted for technical matters.

In the years launch, Air Asia Philippines CEO Maan Henriones readily extended her company's support, telling the press that she had been a long-time user of an early '90s model Defender, and even attended social and offroad functions—high heels and killer dresses and all—driving her offroaders. Talk about Lioness Grace.

LRPhils Motors Inc executive Mari Soong said, "We believe that 5 Filipinos have the talent to excel globally, and especially in a sport such as offroading."

AT the launch are Soong, Henriones, Hiroyan Mendiola, Larry Mendiola and Cavanagh together with Air Asia lady executives.

Kia Motors launches new global brand campaign

KIA MOTORS has launched its new global brand campaign called 'Inspired by What You Like. Kia,' the 'Like Effect' for short. The campaign aims to increase awareness and make a ranking of Kia's cars brand beliefs—'Challenger', 'Premium drivers' and 'Spirited'—through TV commercials and digital media activities and markets.

In addition to the traditional outbound media exposure, Kia plans to provide an engaging digital experience to create a more intimate bond with consumers. To achieve this objective, the digital campaign will be focused on social platforms where users can participate and share their experience with peers, which is in line with the core message of the TV commercials.

The campaign's teaser TV commercial, which will be first aired on Oct. 27, features Kia's global brand ambassador, tennis sensation Rafael Nadal, showing the audience what he likes. In the main follow-up campaign commercial, Kia's found beliefs will be communicated by showing which customers 'likes' are related to Kia as a brand.

Leveraging Kia's partnership with Facebook, the world's largest social media platform, the digital campaign will be rolled out on the Kia's primary Facebook page and will include a continuous quick, a CSR program and a state-of-the-art semantic interactive mind system. To bring the brand closer to consumers worldwide, the campaign is being launched in seven different languages and seeks to harness the power of social networks to communicate the campaign theme, "Inspired by What You Like. Kia. Its Power to Inspire."

Focusing on the Facebook 'Like' feature, one of the most recognizable icons on the Internet today, the campaign's elements are designed to engage consumers directly to find out what they enjoy and appreciate in life.

Photo One: Guess What Nadal Likes

At the time of launch, Kia's Facebook fans will be able to play a simple, social media quiz called "Guess What Nadal Likes." Kia will select five winners among those who submit the most correct answers and award them with a trip for two to the 2012 Australian Open to watch Nadal in action. Open to every registered Facebook user to enjoy regardless of country of residence.

Photo Two: Kia Likes Caring

During phase two, the campaign will team up with a global (a renowned environmental advocacy organization. The current awareness and to support the brand's commitment to sustainability by ensuring its values with Facebook fans. Drivers for the theme "Inspired by What You Like," Kia will ask fans to place a badge on their profile picture representing their support for the environment. In response to the level of support generated on Facebook, Kia will donate vehicles for the organization for use in their daily efforts aimed at assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. The Kia Likes Caring CSR program deals on 8 November and is expected to conclude on Jan. 31, 2012.

Phase Three: Like Lab

Set to launch on Nov. 10, Kia will introduce the "Like Lab" as the third phase of its digital brand campaign. Like Lab is a state-of-the-art, semantic social media that will allow users to control the content of the days to reflect what they like. The story unfolds with a scene inside Kia's secret agency called Like Lab where agents and researchers study various Kia vehicles in order to create the best designs and qualities for their cars.

The digital campaign on Kia's worldwide Facebook page will run from Oct. 27 until Jan. 31, 2012, with content available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.

Subaru Impreza Challenge Asian Face-Off

SKID MARKS
Boyet Sarmiento

COVERING THE Subaru Impreza Challenge Asian Face-Off is more like a lifestyle than a true motoring event. But the chance of someone winning an exciting car such as the Impreza is always worth watching out for, particularly if it's in sequential, tension-friendly venues such as Singapore.

With 10 Filipino squabblers accompanied by members of Motor Image Filipinas, part of the Motor Image Group under the Tan Kong Group of Companies, and members of the motoring media, it was exciting to say the least to the year's 10th Edition of the regional contest promised to be bigger and better than before with new contestants from Macau and Cambodia joining for the first time in a field of over 300 participants from 10 Asian countries including Singapore.

The venue was the popular high-end fashion district of Ngee Ann City along Orchard Road, complete with non-stop entertainment to hold us over as the contestants, depending on who was performing at any given time of the day.

Contestants would need to place their right hand on specified spots on the car's bonnet, hood or by the entire duration of the contest but would be given a 5-minute break every six hours, one at 7 am, pm and one at 1 am, we'll be event starting on Saturday, Oct. 29, 1 pm, with Motor Image Group Chief Executive Glenn Tan and other hand celebrities and PBA Motor Image is the ASEAN Authorized Distributor of all Subaru vehicles.

The record currently stood at 81 hours and 52 minutes by George Lee of Singapore and the winners milling about was that people were gunning for more than to break the record. The Philippine team consisted of Robert Dumpit, Edgardo Marcos, Anne Curtis, Roberto Tomas, Danilo Barlog, Boy Pizzas, Carlo Garcia, Alex Ichikawa, Apple Baldivado and Kris Uy. In the final hours of Team Philippines' struggle for glory, it was Alex Ichikawa who lasted for 69 hours before the afternoon sun drove brightly and temporarily blinded Alex who was, as he admits, already suffering from the lack of sleep.

Filipino to continue on to enter the physical pain and help beat the mind meant he was already hallucinating. Shield-ing the sun from his eyes with his left arm, he wondered why he could see right through arms from the palm inside, silhouette, disqualifying him from the contest.

Three hours after, frustrated up and back to normal. Also encountered some of the lighter moments on the drowsy three days with his hands on the car. He says it was the unique smell of everyone around which was the toughest to cope with. The intense heat, humidity, hunger and physical torture are all things the 'drivers' remember of this event but prepared him well such as controlling his diet and food intake as well as inside relaxation, sleep deprivation and self-pacing that the number of other people in the category is down quite. Sustained fatigue and physical decline.

Ichikawa, a second-hand motorcycle and spare-parts entrepreneur if he would join again said he sure he's thinking about it. Maybe not next year but other people get a chance for glory Alex will wear a special prize so he says the trip was worth it on that alone. Out of the 10 Philippines from motivators, five were veterans while five others were newbies and found the events far more difficult than they had imagined, but for most meeting, made more special by being under the bright lights, braving sun and intense monsoon rains of Singapore.

In the end, after 75 hours and 36 minutes, it was Dong Kiat Oh of Singapore who emerged victorious and walked away with the brand new Subaru Impreza WRX hatchback valued at over $$200,000 Singapore dollars.

It was a great six hours short of the record but that presents some year's creators to be even bigger and better.

THE AUTHOR with three-time veteran Alex Ichikawa, who lasted 69 hours in becoming the last Filipino standing.

QUALIFIERS from all over Asia were also grueling challenges at Ngee Ann City along Orchard Road in Singapore.

Flood of opportunities

From page B4-1

Pent and Sullivan analysts are that nearly 10 percent of us- to parts for local production come from regions affected by the floods, thus straining the supply chain structure. Ayutthaya and Pathumthani provinces account for around 40 auto parts suppliers supplying to their assembly plants in Thailand...to Toyota, Isuzu Motors, Mitsubishi Motors and Nissan. The least affected automobile manufacturer is Thailand, so far, has been General Motors.

Last week, Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. announced that it was temporarily suspended production at its Honda, Laguna plant due to limited parts supply caused by the flooding in Thailand. Toyota Motor Philippines also declared adjustments in its production numbers this month for the same reason.

Philippine car giant auditors recently revealed that car manufacturers had been surveying local car parts suppliers as early as mid-September. Pedro Bagsakanan, executive vice president of the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association, of the Philippines, disclosed that Japanese and American brands had been making the rounds among ASEMAP members.

Two weeks from the car manufacturing sector said, however, that they were not aware of such activities.

MVPMAP has 116 member companies that make auto parts, ranging from automobile, auto assemblers and its components parts to auto body parts, plastic and metal parts, tires, carpets, glasses, seat materials, pedals, under chassis components, bolts and nuts, welding machines, carriage wheels and seat components parts.

Bagsakanan said over the phone that Philippine car parts makers could explain businesses to Thailand.

"At this point, and things is possible. The flood is not yet over, flooding, but to provide cost and consistency advantage over other locations. If the Philippines is to be considered (as an) alternative to Thailand, it has to create strong preparation in these areas," said to top executive of a Japanese automobile brand, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another representative of another Japanese car brand explained that should the motor furnace decide to source its parts to the Philippines, it would have to be necessary. Thailand, he said, would still be the primary choice because Thai parts makers process their own raw materials and make parts from scratch.

"Having the Philippines as a secondary hub will not be easy, as it would require millions of dollars in setting up. And to use means to invest on a country such over changing rates of incentives for businesses and lack of government support," he cautioned.

And besides, the representative added, there are other parts suppliers being eyed in Malaysia and Indonesia.

President Aquino in his press statement declared that Thailand had become a major automotive manufacturing center due to government incentives, its friends and local negotiation deals specifically designed to help automotive companies and manufacturers.

A Filipino businessman who recently attended to auto business conference expressed his doubts over the possibility that auto manufacturers in Thailand would invest multi-billion dollars in setting up. And to use means to invest on a country such over changing rates of incentives for businesses and lack of government support," he cautioned.

And besides, the representative added, there are other parts

Supply status

Meanwhile, some auto manufacturers in the Philippines have released statements pertaining to the Thailand situation.

"So far the latest information received, General Motors operations in Thailand is addressing the matters and so far considered the effect of the floods, and that for the requirements for the assembly...we do not yet expect any major disturbances as far as the supply of our current units and availability of parts are concerned," said Albert Arcilla, The Covenant Car Company (Chevrolet Philippines) chief operating officer and managing director.

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. public relations head Karla Ecenarro told business that NMPI still has enough inventory of parts.

"We don't expect CBUs to Thailand. Fortunately, we are slightly affected but not to lead to the other manufacturers."

Bloomberg Businessweek reported Saturday that Toyota, Asia's biggest carmaker, is ending basic output in Japan for a third week and suspended overtime in North America for a second week as disruptions from the floods spread. It added that Honda is temporarily eliminating overtime and running North American plants at half capacity until next week as Japan's third-largest automaker assesses its losses. The article also quoted Todd Nissen, a spokesman for Ford Motor Company, that the US automaker told suppliers it will resume operations in its Auto Alliance Thailand factory on Nov. 14 after flooding disrupted production.

2012 Lamborghini Aventador

Fearless forecast for 2012

2012 Ford Ranger

All 11Bs time of year, it is surprising—if not traditional—to peer into an imaginary crystal ball to predict what new cars will come on the market in the New Year. Here is my fearless forecast, divided into two categories: Confirmed, or information given by the car makers themselves; and iffy, or proposals that are tentative and not approved.

Oddly enough, the importers—distributors of luxury brands were quicker to provide their 2012 marketing plans than their mass market counterparts. Toyota Motor Philippines executives refuse to reveal separately for info finally scored back that they normally don't disclose their plans to launch new models. Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. said they

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

can't give any info on 2012 models until possibly Friday after a meeting with the Hyundai Motor Co. regional officer. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. didn't respond at all to my query. That's understandable since Honda Motor worldwide is still struggling with supply chain problems after being walloped by three natural disasters: the earthquake and tsunami in Japan last March and then the floods in Thailand that have forced Honda to temporarily shut down its plant there and also here in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Guess to think of it, some of the Asian auto manufacturers may be rightfully upset that their Year End celebration (and maidenvues) may have been theirs in the past two years. Toyota Motor Co. had just overcome quality control issues in North America when they were hit by the twin disasters in Japan last March. After recovering from them, Toyota was confronted with supply chain disruptions more when its plant in Thailand, which produces and exports Toyota vehicles and components worldwide, was flooded and had to be closed.

The two leading South Korean car makers, on the other hand, have become victims of their own phenomenal success. Hyundai vehicles—the Sonata, Tucson, Elantra, Genesis and Accent in particular—are selling so briskly all over the world that Hyundai's three plants in Korea and six overseas plants cannot meet the demand despite overtime work. The major markets in the Americas and Europe are given priority, which is why there is a long waiting line for Hyundai products in small markets like Southeast Asian countries including us.

Hyundai Motor's subsidiary, Kia, is also trying hard to cope with the increased demand worldwide for its cars. Since the Philippine market is minor compared to North America and Europe, the best-selling Kia

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November 25-27, 2011

Caravan Coordinator: Ms. Ma. Cristina Ramos of AAP at 455 5888 / 0922-8901705 / 0917-8525502

Early bird registration: P3,500 on or before Nov. 14, 2011

Regular registration: P4,500

Inclusive of land transportation, meals, hotel suite and toll fees

AAP Caravan drives to Ilocos Nov. 25-27

FOR THE first time in its 86-year history, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) is taking its members and friends on a three-days, two-nights tour of the Solid North. This will be AAP's third Drive Tour Caravan, spearheaded by AAP Director and Tourism Committee chair Bliss Gabot.

Given the experience and connection Gabot gained in the travel industry when she was the country's Tourism Secretary, the previous two AAP caravans (Do Sol in Subic and Cebu, the second on Cavite and Batangas) were successful and served as a get-to-know-your-own-country and family-bonding weekend activity for a hundred or so AAP members and friends.

As in the past AAP Drive Tour Caravans, the regional Department of Tourism directors and local government officials are involved with the AAP Ilocos Norte Drive Tour Caravan.

The AAP caravaners will stop at the Plaza del Norte Hotel in Laoag from where they will drive to the Provincial Capitol for the Signing of Action for Road Safety Pledging ceremony. In Burgos, the main attraction is the Kapurpurawan Rock Formation while in Bangui they will visit the famous Bangui windmill farm. At Saud Beach, Pagudpud, lunch will be hosted by Governor Maria Marcos at the Malacañang of the North. On Day 2, AAP caravaners proceed to Paoay to either go sandboarding and sil-scading on the Sand Dunes or bird-watching at Paoay Lake. After hearing Mass at the parish church of St. Augustine in Paoay, the caravaners depart for Currimao and Herocaria where they can shop for souvenirs and local products. After lunch, the caravan drives back to Manila.

For more information, call AAP at 455-5888 or 0922-8901705 or 0917-8525502 and look for Mylene Darly Ibid registrations, on or before Nov. 14, costs P3,500 while the regular registration fee is P4,500.

The registration fee covers all meals, hotel accommodations, toll fees, handouts and entrance fees to museums and other tourist sites.

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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

The setting is earthy, spare, contemporary—and his wife's meals interestingly healthy

COLUMELA high-backed chairs with PVC upholstered chair and metal framing

A visit to Milo Naval showroom is a visual experience

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

CLUSTERS OF bamboo, palm trees and randomly arranged shrubs conceal the view of designer Milo Naval's showroom in Biñan, Laguna.

Standing on a non-descript property, the exterior is like a teaser, surrounded by tropical foliage. It is lined with medium grass, contrasted by pools of stone pebbles and stone-covered pathways.

Complex of 12 varieties of bamboo and cacti line the perimeter.

The factory of Naval's business, Interior Insight Inc., caters to foreign buyers who demand to see the product range and the manufacturing process. Despite the global recession, Milo's clients, mostly buyers for specialty stores, have remained faithful.

Naval explains they tailor designs using organic materials and are fascinated with their juxtaposition with leather and metals.

The name Kroles was culled from his design process. "It starts with one idea, then it builds up," he says.

Naval cites the example of his mahogany nook desk, topped with glass over tartan paler. The rhythm of the tartan paler is transposed into the headboard of a canopied bed and a canvas divider. The pattern of interwoven jute straps in a stool is also replicated on the back of a sofa which doubles as side table, and a big ottoman which can seat accidhe cadet.

Asked his favorite designers, Naval

AVERY 12

ICONIC Acapulco loungers cover the modular sofa made of denim upholstery. Set-up also includes a duo-table with stainless-steel legs, below with "Sea Gem Jade" acrylic lamp; Naval's inverted L floor lamp; and mahogany armchair with canvas upholstery

AN UNUSUAL Christmas tree, shaped like a cactus

A visit to Milo Naval showroom is a visual experience

From page C1

says he could relate to Italian designer Antonio Citterio, known for his streamlined designs and technology. Like Naval, Citterio is a family man.

"His designs are family-oriented. The colors are basic—browns, beiges and black."

Naval adds that he admires the Italian's understated sophistication. He also admires Spanish Patricia Urquiola for her playfulness and unique shapes, and architect Cathy Hia did for her bold, expressive designs.

Best advantage

The showroom reflects Naval's signature earthy and space style. The walls are white-washed to bounce off the lights, and the flooring is covered in special white paint finish so that his works pop out.

While most designers may produce great designs, the displays in their stores or showrooms tend to be bland. With his interior design background, Naval can show furniture and accessories in their best advantage.

"I look at the space or determine what furniture would be proportional to it. I also consider how the inhabitants of it or would circulate. I can suggest how to set up the pieces and I limit the accessories."

Naval establishes each vignette with a generously proportioned key piece. For instance, an acacia table made from a single solid piece was salvaged after a typhoon. Though rustic, it looks modern with contrasting stainless-steel legs.

Naval emphasizes its inwardness by installing a wood made of plastic strips, inspired by the robot—the women's prison headgear from Britain—and a striking lamp inspired by boar-ne wings.

Both were created by Filipino-Brit Daniel Lafaurie Cruz, whom Naval discovered in the recent Center For International Trade Expositions and Missions (Cittem) show. Naval was impressed by the young industrial designer's originality, logic and depth.

The boar-ne lamp shade is made from mulberry paper, produced by Japanese designer Ishiguru. The frosted of the shade look after the mythical figure, Ivatsu, who built wings made from wax and feathers.

Lafaurie Cruz points out that the sunlight enhances their gossamer effect.

"Its (Lafaurie Cruz) is my last for our future," says Naval.

While the showroom is elegant, contemporary and spare, Naval's office is more laid-back. The floor is done in a raw concrete finish, polished to create refinement.

"The color is natural. It goes with my furniture," he says.

He furnishes the room with a rattan-and mahogany table, chaza mat-covered chairs, and a mahogany-flat cabinet to store his magazines and CDs and to conceal the speakers. The latter has also rendered into a clothing cabinet, ordered by a client.

Aside from the homey ambiance and the tropical garden, our visit is made memorable by the Navals' hospitality. His wife and business partner Endowine brings in whole-wheat tortilla rolls that wrap grilled vegetables; rice-and-rice with cheese and vegetables; fruity pastries, fruit and rice whole-wheat bread and unsweetened tea.

She later brings out guimaas, made from rice-and-rice rolled from her home province, Batangas.

For some time, Naval has been working on the family

LATEST Coral Island lampshade and salad inspired wood frame. Naval's chaz-and-wood table.

MILO Naval and Daniel Lafaurie Cruz with the latter's boar-ne lampshade

THE SHAPE abstract painting by an unknown artist highlights the drama of the sofa, made of Belgian upholstery and woven leather backing

MIXED media art, a triptychon Pollock, made of pencils

TREE-STUMP stool, made of abaca pulp, in Naval's ground garden

NAVAL'S office exudes earthy earnings.

not home and garden or interior City Where the Heart Can Be Manila invited designers for its annual Christmas exhibit which opens on Nov. 16, Naval decided to dedicate his new works to the indigent children of Barangay.

Pencil trees

The theme revolves around pens and pencils that evolve into statement pieces. They are grouped by color and transparency to form interesting patterns and textures together with nylon. The artworks range from an abstract Christmas tree fashioned from red pencils, to a leaf-shaped sofa made of green pencils tied over a metal frame.

Naval explains that the colors chosen are warranted for maximum impact.

"It's not a traditional Christmas exhibit. I wanted to do something for the children of Barangay. Instead of producing something that won't be used after Christmas, I decided to make these objects which can be dismantled. They can use them for school," he explains.

Plans are afoot for the hotel to auction the pieces and donate the proceeds to charity.

Furniture finds at Festival Supermall

Lá SIESTA showcases high-end modern contemporary furniture in glass, wood and leather

WITH HOME stores that offer an array of options for all needs and budgets, Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, has become a destination for interior designers, nesting couples, condo dwellers, and "do-it-yourselfers" in search of home and office furnishing.

The furniture showrooms on the fourth level of Festival Supermall showcase furniture pieces for all areas of the house and the office, as well as lighting fixtures and other home accessories.

Bradlon specializes in export-quality furniture in Asian and modern styles, usually in a mix of wood, accent pieces and cotton inlay.

Solemare Home Store deals in customized contemporary furniture, lighting fixtures, giftwork and limited-edition accessories. They also specialize in styling for themed rated interiors with Old Spanish style as the favorite among repeat buyers.

Rivita and La Stella offer imported furniture from Italy. It's said the Asia-Pacific Rivita deals in classical and modern Italian pieces in a mix of fabric, wood and glass, while La Stella showcases high-end modern contemporary furniture in glass, metal and leather.

Rendition manufactures high-end, contemporary wooden furniture, including beds and dining sets, desks, consoles and cocktail tables, in various types of finishes.

Also at Festival Supermall: Curli, City Mattress, OKG Futons, Décor Shel, Essence Furniture, Hancock Classics, House of Precast, Ikea Kitchen, Kingsdell, La Venice, Mr. Kiss, Michibi Interiors, Petite Furniture, Sanyang, Stone & Style Furnishing House, Showcase Carpet, Sylpainlove and Terracotta.

Find all you need to home and office furnishing at Festival Supermall, a premier development of Filinvest Corporate City. It is directly accessible via Pan-nachor route, Shoemart Supermarket, SaveMore, Robinsons Department Store, Ace Hardware and Handyman.

It has over 750 shops, a total of 2,500 multilevel parking slots, various food outlets, indoor amusement rides and a display exhibit.

Free bedroom makeover contest

APO FLOORS, the country's industry leader in manufacturing and distribution of resilient flooring, invites everyone to join its Free Bedroom Makeover contest.

Known to offer eco-friendly flooring material with great aesthetic design, Apo Floors partners with the best interior design students of the Philippine School of Interior Design for this unique contest.

In order to join, entries only have to "Like" the Apo Floors' Facebook page and upload a photo of the bedroom to be made over. The bedroom photo that garners the most "Likes" by the end of the contest period will be awarded the makeover.

The contest runs until Nov. 15; announcement of winners is on Nov. 16.

"Apo Floors produces the best quality in flooring products and the bedroom makeover contest provides a fun and practical way to showcase the best of our tile and plank products," says Hilary Castro, APO Floors' communications manager. "With the participation of the young and fresh minds of the Philippine School of Interior Design students, the outcome will be a lot more exciting."

Visit www.apofloors.com, facebook.com/apofloors; www.pinterest.com/apofloors

CANCER survivor Eduardo Perez, Fuda Cancer Hospital director for international affairs Esther Lee, cancer survivors Rina and Carlos Pedroza, Fuda Cancer Hospital president Kecheng Ke, Fuda volunteer Nora Bonifacio

A green, green Christmas

THE MAKATI GARDEN CLUB (MGC) is celebrating a green Christmas with its Holiday Plants and Garden Show and Sale on Nov. 11-13.

Plant lovers and homeowners can enjoy their wide range of plants offered by the MGC landscape artist Neyong Lab and friends. Key features, Grande Lawsons, and Bamboo-themed garden lovers Pico Tecsola.

Selections include beautifully packaged poinsettias by Shop de los Reyes, pine trees, palms, popular bamboo varieties, seasonal plants and ornamentals for home decor or gift giving. Endless container also available.

The ladies of MGC, organizers of the three-day event, also offer a host of presents to gift baskets with fresh herbs and vegetables instead of common grocery items.

Exquisite accessories and gift items will also be featured, including handmade jewelry from MGC ladies Linda Angeles, Malu Feleo, Malou Lozano, Dalhia Gaston, Mimsy and jewelry from Sunsun Organ, exotic doll fabrics from Polly Roo, home accessories and mini-pond kits from Mari Bravo, holiday decor from exporter Judy Bonavia.

The Winter Round-about will also have a whole sculptural sale showcasing fern boxes, plants and collectibles.

Visitors can also have a taste of special recipes from the private kitchens of the MGC ladies.

The event promises to be a venue to shop for carefully selected and unique home decor and Christmas gift items that are not commonly found elsewhere.

Makati Garden Club is on the corner of Kiko and Ayala Avenue and Buendicon Street, Makati, open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 4171718.

Seminar on latest cancer treatments

PROFESSOR KECHENG Ke, FUDA Cancer Hospital President, and doctors from Fuda Cancer Hospital will present their latest technologies and treatments for cancer patients from early to late stages, as well as cancer screening.

The seminar will be held on Nov. 12 at Vivere Hotel Ballroom, Alabang, and is open to the public.

Call Edward Pena at 0917-8303680, 5026458, 8894453; e-mail ehpena@gmail.com; visit www.fudacancerhospital.com, www.cancercare.com.

How to give distinctive touches to the living room

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor
Reprinted from Cocoon Magazine

Personal details, from favorite artworks to customized color combination, and decorative devices add the homeowner's touch to the living room

1. Revealing and concealing

When architect Dan Lichauco renovated the family house, he left the floor joints and beams exposed in the living room. The architecture distinguishes the room more height, and the distressed patina shows off clean lines and slick leather furniture. There's a lot of hidden storage to keep the clutter at bay.

2. Creating balance

Balance is as much about finding as it is about juxtaposition. "There's nothing symmetrical in this living room, but everything is balanced. I call it 'false symmetry.' Weight plays an important role," says Lichauco. The living room is a vertical space divided into three parts. The sofa and coffee table are at the center, flanked by an armchair and sculpture. There's a lot of visual movement going on. The array of candleholders on the table is balanced by the seven singularity of tables and chairs.

3. Chiaroscuro

Chiaroscuro is the use of light and shade to create the illusion of depth. This is the design theme of Chito Kipanbo and Ricky Tolentino's living room. The space is at its best at night, when the objets d'art sparkle under mood lighting and shadows are cast on the walls for drama. A gilded bronze Buddha head from Kathmandu is embedded against the dark wall with a Pompeiian paint finish. The color serves as background for the Napoleon III armchair upholstered in tapestry. The red period piece contrasts with the Arhingo side table and the bobbins of Philippe Starck Royalton/Hella Chair in cherry wood and aluminum. Mia Herbosa's oil painting of "Hiraya" (1999) lends a sense of mystery.

4. Color chic

"I'm through with beige and brown! It's like living in a bowl of oatmeal porridge," says design consultant Enrico Pyncelet. Taking his cue from the age of the house (built in the '60s) and his acquisition of mid-century furniture, he layered such colors reminiscent of the '60s. Pyncelet recommends using a triadic scheme that is composed of a base color and two accent colors. These hues are evenly spaced out in the color wheel. In the living room, the Tiger Lily Orange blends with Log Cabin Brown and Continental Cream. The orange picks up the warm hues from the Cal's "Isabel," which is blown up into a tarpaulin. An orchid, he chose is complementary color, blue that is opposite orange in the color wheel, as an accent in the furnishing. He enjoys mid-century furniture by Florence Knoll, Harry Bertoia, Charles Eames, George Nelson, Warren Platner and Eero Saarinen for their classic appeal, and the way they blend seamlessly with contemporary architecture and furnishing.

These photos are not retouched!

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MyHome presents special builder's issue

BUILDING OR renovating a home need not be a nightmare anymore. With reliable, industry professionals, high-quality materials and a well-considered timetable, it can even be a pleasant experience.

In its November 2011 issue, MyHome offers a handy guide on hassle-free constructing and refurbishing. Area yourself with the basics to pull off a modern industrial bathroom or indulge in your hobby by making a useful crafts room. Discover the difference between plywood, chipboard and other alternatives to traditional wood.

Consider the great outcome of the building process with the spectacular dwellings that grace this month's pages. Marvel at the convenience and accessibility offered by a soon-to-rise Kamposan condo. Learn how to overcome challenges with the irregularly shaped but aesthetically appealing Makati home. Indefine sophistication with this bachelor pad in Ortigas. Be transported to an exotic tropical destination with this resort style Manila space for a family of six. Finally, take note of how a Cebu-based family finds a home away from home with their New Manila dwelling.

Be encouraged to create or update your personal space with practical tips in the November 2011 issue of MyHome. Grab a copy now, available in all newsstands and bookstores nationwide.

MyHome is a prestige publication of Mega Publishing Group. For more information, visit www.myhomemag.com. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/myhomemag and follow us on Twitter @twitter.com/myhomemag.

LIFESTYLE Parenting

What it means to be a Filipino family

JOLLIBEE global president Ernesto Tanmantiong; Jollibee Family Values Awards judges Jaime and Christine Bautista

Jollibee honors families who prove that you can be of service to others—even if you're just average, or even 'not complete'

By Irene C. Perez

FIVE special Filipino families shared their stories and got recognized. One does feeding programs for the less fortunate, another helps poor women give birth outside the hospital, and others prove a family can be complete even with a disabled member.

They are the first batch of winners of the Jollibee Family Values Award. The awards was launched earlier this year by the beloved giant, and called for nominations for outstanding families who embody Filipino values and have been inspirational to their community.

"The response was overwhelming. We had 1,377 nominations and chose 25. The top five were chosen by regular South Luzon, Mega Manila, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao," said Albert Cuadrante, Jollibee vice president for marketing. "I deliberated with the other judges for a whole day. Background checks, which is very important, were done to make sure the winners are qualified."

The panel was composed of broadcaster-turning-columnist Cathy Babao-Cabochi, TV5 radio personalities Jolibee Bautista and

PAGE B2

JOLLIBEE vice president for marketing Albert Cuadrante and president Pepot Mesina

ALAH LEJESTINA and daughter Isabella

EDIONES. Christine, Fatriana, Czarina and Beatrice Francisco facilitate feeding programs for public school children in Quezon.

REY Jr., Tres, Hannah, Kiana, Marjorie and Rey Carrasjose of Mindanao use technology to help other families.

What it means to be a Filipino family

Front page D1

Christine Estrada-Belmonte, Department of Social Welfare and Development Undersecretary Alicia Bala, Center for Family Ministries director Fr. Allan Hirsan, JobBoss VP for human resources Theresa Ante, and JobBoss marketing manager Bren Mariano.

They were presented to a recent Gabi ng Parangal Para sa Pamilyang Pilipino at Ceramic Plaza Hotel in Ortigas. JobBoss global president Ernesto Tee-monitoring and JobBoss Philippines president Jose Mikuna awarded each of the five families P300,000 cash, P150,000 to JobBoss gift certificates and a trophy designed by brass sculptor Michael Casino.

Inspiring stories

Emmanuel "Manuel" and Mila Mercado of Quezon City are a picture of commitment and strength. Mila had brain injuries after giving birth to their only daughter, and has been paralyzed since.

"I have accepted that she will not get better, but I have promised to take care of her forever," said Manuel, president of St. John's Health Network.

He gives talks in schools, recollections, and church groups on how a family should handle the disability of its member. He and daughter Mary Grace Therese, 13, support the Cambarino Reforestation Project.

The Ogda family of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, has a simple background. Flor, a midwife, helps expectant mothers who cannot afford hospitalization give birth for free. She also gives prenatal seminars, and acts as a guarantor for women in her barangay who want to put up small businesses.

Husband Jerome, a company welder, supports the wife and participates in medical missions and clean-up drives, together with kids Irvin Lenard, 17, Irene Joy, 13, and Ivan Justine, 6.

Volunteerism

Ichona Francisco, a psychologist, and wife Christine from Lucena City started a feeding program to 50 public schoolchildren in Gumaca, Quezon in 2009. Through the help of friends abroad, they now cover 45 sites. The couple, with kids Denise Patrizia, 17, Denise Czarina, 13, and Denise Beatrice, 9, heads the program every 4 months in Lucena. They also help out children with cleft palates get surgery.

All four kids of Ernesto and Bernadine Baptista of Silay City give talks and workshops to their peers. The father is a professor at University of St. La Salle, while the mom works in an NGO. She is a believer in the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," a series of principles for success and good relations.

"For example, they argue over which channel to watch. I told them, watch one channel for one minute, then another in the next minute. Make elder (They get older)," Bernadine shared. "We then talked among themselves and agreed today they'll watch this show, and tomorrow the other one."

The Baptista couple facilitates the Discovery Weekend and Marriage Encounter sessions, a guide for couples, while kids Alexandra, 19, Liane Ernesto, 18, Simon Pedro, 16, and Rosario Carmelina, 13, assist into the 7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens and Youth. Aid's Rich for Rent initiator workshops.

Missionaries and public servants through websites is the advocacy of the Carrasjoses from General Santos City. Dad is lawyer Rey, mom is school director Marjorie, and kids are Rey Jr., 18, Thea Danielle, 16, Hannah Kristina, 13, and Kiana Faye, 9.

The family are active members of the Red Cross movement and helps during rallies, disasters, and national conventions. They also publish the websites gensantoschange.com, philippinehandbag.com, shopcentralmall.com and pasugosan.ph that gives information online.

CELEBRATING the Filipino family. JobBoss Philippines president Pepot Mikuna, global president Ernesto Tanmantiong, vice president for marketing Albert Cauchemin, marketing manager Bren Mariano, HR vice president Theresa Jane Judges Cesby Bukaldo, Julius and Tinin Balao and Fr. Allan Hirsan

MARY Grace, Wyatt, and Mila Mercado of Metro Manila show how to effectively deal with a family member's disability.

ERNESTO, Cesar, Simon, Alexandra , Remedios and Rosario Baptista from Visayas give empowering and inspirational workshops to adults and teens.

MaAga ang Pasko project seeks toy donations

MANILA ADG Padco, JobBoss's nationwide gift-giving project has been delighting less-fortunate children and has given away over two million toys for 17 years.

The JobBoss Family Values award winners recently joined in the project. They bring symbolic "commitment pledges" in the Managa ang Pasko Pledge trees in SM Sky Dome, SM North Edsa, QC.

JobBoss volunteers and Toy Scouts from various school gather toys to be distributed by Christmas. Individuals may drop their toys in Managa ang Pasko boxes in over 700 JobBoss stores; books are also welcome.

Around 200,000 toys were collected last year, and these were given away through the help of students from 60 schools and employees from 23 companies.

Managa ang Pasko ambassador Aga Muhlach, JobBoss Philippines president Jose Mikuna and JobBoss vice president for marketing Albert Cauchemar encourage donors to participate in the toy drive.

Call 8837972 or e-mail to abel.mendiola@wizzwork.ph. Irene C. Perez

Little savings can help you pay for Christmas

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolilis

SO HAPPY! love hard me try to keep it out of mind. I am sure most of us are already thinking about the coming holiday season and how we are going to deal with the additional expenses that cannot be avoided.

Jason Alderman, a financial expert who directs Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com), suggests doing some small spending cuts. If started early, these little economies can mean big savings.

For instance, underutilized phone and cable services, magazine subscriptions, gym memberships and other "extras" that are not being used should be canceled, Alderman says.

In fact, you do not need the extravagance of Christmas to do this. Paying for something you do not use, or do not use as much as you should, means an expense you do not need.

Alderman says bad habits, like smoking, should be stopped. Actually, quitting smoking will not only save you a bundle by not having to pay for cigarettes anymore. It can also mean avoiding the serious health issues associated with the addiction that can mean huge hospital bills.

Use more energy-efficient bulbs, Alderman also recommends. You may expand this to include appliances. When and if you need to replace any appliance, like the refrigerator or air conditioner, choose the most energy-efficient model in the market. Though it may cost a little more than other models, the significant reduction in energy bills should more than make up for it.

For those who drive, Alderman says sticking to the speed limit will mean lower energy consumption. He explains, "Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas and can lower gas mileage by 33 percent on the highway. Fuel economy drops rapidly at higher speeds."

In the United States, Alderman says, each five miles per hour in excess of 60 mph, "is like paying an additional $0.29 per gallon of gas." He also suggests tightening the load of your vehicle as each extra 100 pounds reduces your miles per gallon.

Alderman adds that generic drugs are usually much lower than branded ones. Good generic drugs are as effective as branded medicines but without the added cost of the popular name.

Storing eggs

I mentioned in one column last month some suggestions from web sites on how to keep eggs fresh for a little while longer. I asked why refrigerator manufacturers still put egg shelves in locations that did not seem to be the best places for them.

Tony Sales of the European brand Electrolux, a major producer of refrigerators, reacted to the column by explaining that "appliances are designed to fit the habits and behavior of consumers. Egg shelves are normally found (behind) the door because, as they are likely consumed every day. Most consumers would also buy eggs on a weekly basis, if not more frequently."

Sales said the company's survey of consumers all over Asia found that eggs stored to the refrigerator no longer than two weeks.

He added that, aware that bacterial growth caused spoilage, Electrolux, for one, keeps the deli bin/drawer and egg shelves closer to the freezer section where the temperature was lower.

He said, in some models of its tech, the company infused the plastic used to egg shelves and deli bins with antibacterial agent to slow down bacterial growth.

With this information, perhaps readers, whose refrigerators have these unsuitable shelves and bins, should make sure the egg holder is moved to the area closer to the freezer or the chiller.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5109 Manuel Roxas Ave., 1101 Mandaluyong City; fax 8974783/84; or e-mail lbolilis@inquirer.com.ph.

Reading tips for kids–start early, really early

HERE ARE some reading tips that can help your child (and you, too!) be more interested in reading.

• Start early, really early. Research shows that mothers who read to their wombs are more likely to give birth to kids who will be voracious readers. And even if toddlers can't read NO sentences yet, reading to them still help develop their love for the written word. Why don't you read to them "Dad's Favorite Series" by Grace D. Chong?

• Make reading time a fun time. Liven up the seemingly "boring" reading time with pre- and post-reading activities, such as picture crossword puzzles, art projects and audio-visual support. Kids these days need all the stimulation they can get. One book that we can suggest for interactive fun is "The Big Book of Questions and Answers."

• Participation is the key. In addition to creating games before and after, let the kids be part of the actual reading, by having them turn the pages of the book, having them repeat certain phrases and words you read, talking about the pictures and asking questions within the story. A fun book to read aloud together is "Hollyanna Ilen" by Robert Magnuson.

• Again and again and again. Even if you're already tired of that one book that they keep asking for, read it to them again, with varying voices, phrasing, even adding your own bit to it. And when they've almost memorized it, ask them to read it to you. Your kids will surely want to read over and over "Short My Vocabulary," by Harriet Lane Pumpkin son.

As kids get older, find new genres. Picture books will not work well with older kids, while wordy books might be beyond their reach for now. Discover new styles that can pique their interest. Fun genres like manga (Tokyo Series by Jim Kreuger) and illustrated novels ("Doppelganger Chronicles" by GP Taylor) will give them more incentive to read.

• Lead by example. How can kids give importance to books when they see that you yourself rarely pick up one? So go out and read a book so they can see that you think reading is fun! A heartwarming book both for adults and kids is The Polarus award-winning "Sundowning Squatter" by Dr. Luis Guinsatao.

• Make bookshops their "home." Make frequent trips to your local community library or bookstore so that they will feel at home around books. Look for a place that encourages customers to browse and read so the kids would be comfortable enough to hang out there. Kids (and adults, too) are very much welcome at any of the 11 OMF Lit Bookshops nationwide.

Another tip to get them interested in reading? Introduce them to Hiyas, OMF Literature's imprint for children's books. The word hiyas means "gem" in Filipino, an appropriate name for a line of books that contain treasures for children. At Hiyas books, readers will discover a wealth of enjoyable stories, memorable characters, imaginative art and indispensable biblical values.

Some of Hiyas' most well-known titles are "Mga Kuwento ni Tita Dido" series by Palanca Awards Hall of Famer Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, "Oh Mercy!" series by Palanca awards multi-awardee Grace D. Chong, "Hoho" (Mango with a Message) by Jim Krueger and the recently released "Doppelganger Chronicles" by GP Taylor.

Call OMF Literature at 5316615, 5350193, e-mail lhiyas@OMFLit.com; visit OMFLit.com for news, events and online book shopping.

Is too much sucrose crowding out nutritious food from your child's diet?

How a sucrose-free diet can help support healthy eating habits

PROMOTING HEALTHY eating habits is key to ensuring the proper nutrition of children. However, in recent years, as the global trend in daily diets shifted to more highly refined, high-sugar (processed) foods, the spotlight has turned to the presence of sucrose, commonly known as table sugar or cane sugar, in the diet. The advancement in thinking from nutrition experts is to take sucrose in moderation. This is where the introduction of sucrose-free food products in children's diets can prove valuable.

According to Dr. Celeste C. Tan-Chavez, chief of the nutrition and R&D division of the Food Solutions and Research Institute, there are pros and cons to sucrose.

"It is a quick source of energy," Tan-Chavez said. "It sweetens food, and eating sweet food is one of life's pleasures, as the sensible way to use this is to enjoy them in moderation or only 30 percent or less portion of the total calorie intake.

"Sucrose in itself is not bad, but can be detrimental in excess, as it increases the risk for dental caries, may be associated with obesity and the displacement of needed nutrients and fiber.

"A sucrose-free diet will be beneficial by helping in the control of dental caries. Preventing consumption of sweets, which are empty of nutrients and high in kilocalories, will also be beneficial."

As part of avoiding concentrated sweets in the child's diet, sucrose-free food products may be introduced. These may be less sweet in taste, but the difference is insignificant compared to the health benefits of a sucrose-free diet.

Mothers must proactively monitor their children's diets to ensure that high-sucrose food items will not displace nutritious food. "If the nutritious food" ends up crowding sugar out of the diet, that is fine—but not the other way around," said Tan-Chavez.

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LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Workshops on interior design, practical home solutions

STUDENTS at work

THE SOFA Design Institute is offering a slew of brand-new interior design workshops recommended by interior buffs and Cynthia Almeda, a renowned interior design teacher who has collaborated on the Eden Shangri-La Hotel in Manila and the Elle Cardona and St. Regis Resort in Bali, aside from countless other residential, restaurant, boutiques, and offices, both here and in the US.

The following interior design modules, which pinpoint practical decorating solutions, run from November to January.

Renovating on a budget

Glean essential decorating tips—what to splurge on, what to save on, and when to repurpose without breaking the bank. The course will be taught by Carla Lesmes, a Bachelor of Science major in Interior Design graduate from the University of Santo Tomas and who ranked 1st in the Interior Design licensure examination of 2009.

SCHEDULE: Every Wednesday and Friday, Nov. 9 to Dec. 16

TIME SLOT: 4:00-7:00 p.m.

VENUE: SoFA Design Institute

Entertaining in style

Learn how to create dramatic paper crafts, floral arrangements, tablescapes, and table settings. Plus, get a crash course in holiday decor.

Instructor Rocelli Hernandez of Alice's Wonderland is an experienced consultant in the field of marketing and events management, specializing in lifestyle, imaging and fashion related event executions. She held the position of Assistant Director and Managing Partner of SALA Events, Inc.

What students will learn: steps in planning, conceptualizing and executing parties; arts and Crafts: DIY decor and paper crafts; basic floral arrangements—creating unique tablescapes/table settings; holiday decor

SCHEDULE: Every Monday, Nov. 7 to Dec. 19

TIME SLOT: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

VENUE: SoFA Design Institute

Paint finishing

Get hands-on experience with various decorative paint finishes which can be applied to walls, furniture, light fixtures, and other surfaces in your space. Sponging, color wash, ragging, combing, and more will come in handy for DIY design challenges.

To be taught by Mark Medina, an artist of faux finishes and an art teacher. A graduate of the University of Santo Tomas with a degree in Fine Arts major in Advertising, the was a Headpainter with Lucio Lorenzo Creations, a textile Designer and a featured artist in Stagecoins. Medina was also finalist in the 1991 Mario Manila Face up your Lenin' competition, a finalist in the 1992 painting contest sponsored by the Spanish Embassy and a finalist in a 1993 painting contest sponsored by the National Churches of the Philippines.

SCHEDULE: Every Saturday, Nov. 5 to Jan. 14

TIME SLOT: 2:00-5:00 p.m.

VENUE: SoFA Design Institute

Lighting design

Discover different lamp families and light fittings and learn how to communicate furniture designs to suppliers and contractors.

Instructor Bernadette Ochoa is a licensed professional Interior Designer who completed her BS Interior Design degree from Assumption College (San Lorenzo). She earned her MA in Lighting Design from The New School-Parsons School of Design in New York, NY, USA. Her affiliations are with the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers; Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, Philippine-American Theatrical Society and the San Francisco Environment. Currently, Ochoa is working for PHILIPS as the Head of the Lighting Applications Services Department.

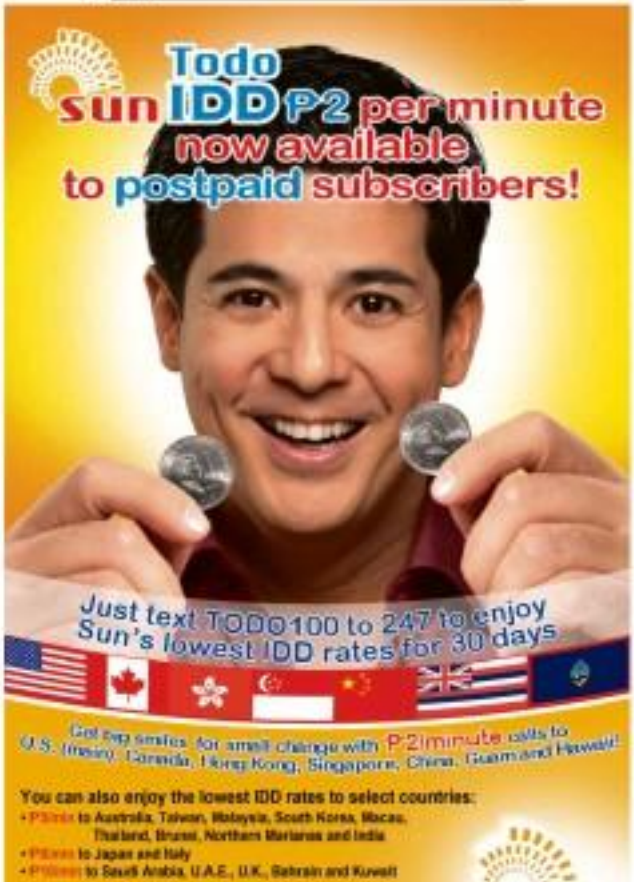
SCHEDULE: Every Tuesday and Thursday, TBA

TIME SLOT: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

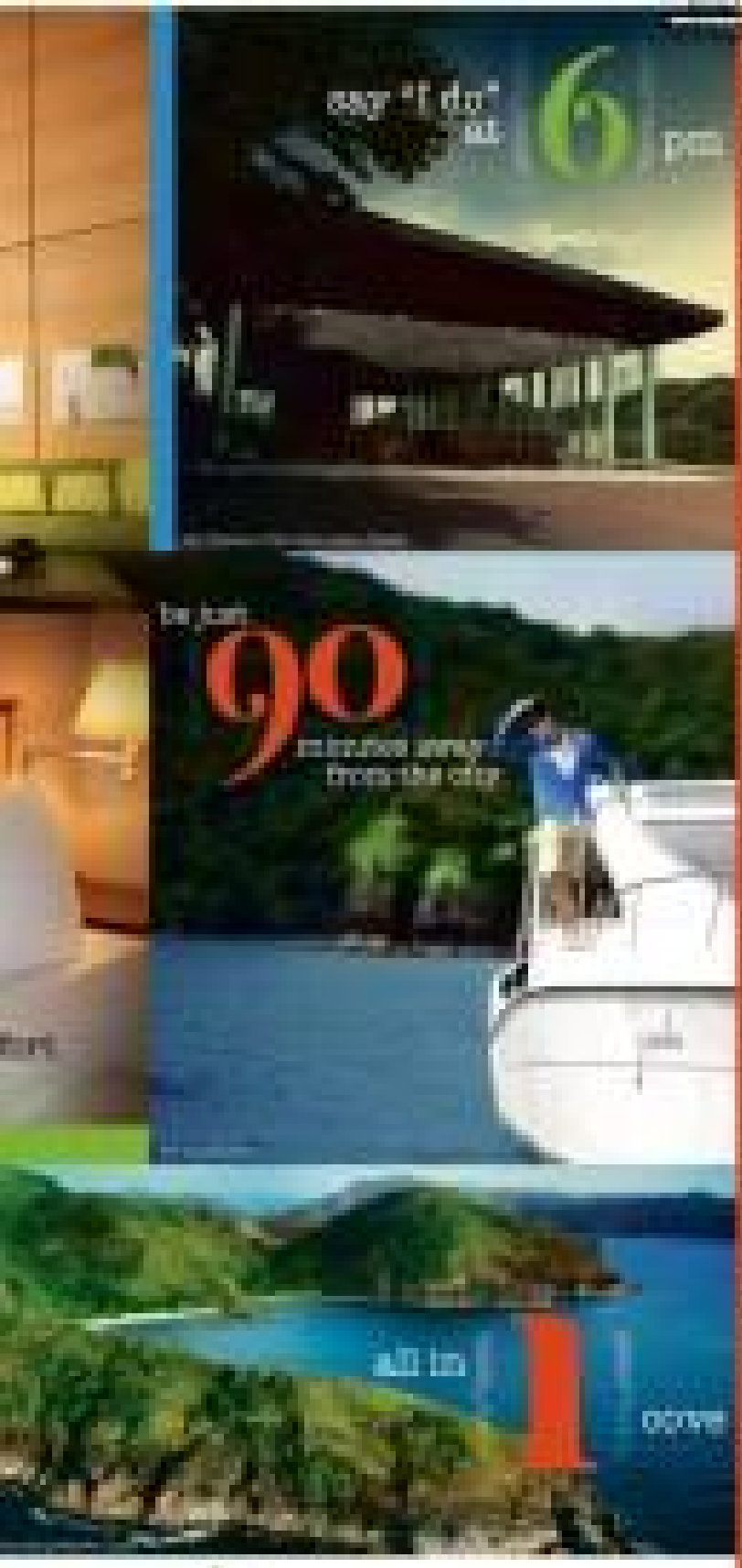
VENUE: SoFA Design Institute

TUITION: P7500

The SoFA Design Institute is located on the Ground Floor, Enzo Building, 209 G2 Payet Avenue, Makati. For inquiries, call: 4764433 local 113 or email sofainterior@webmanila.com. Add SoFA Interior Design on Facebook or visit www.sofamanila.com for more updates on these workshops.



Live a Life that Counts



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NIKKI Lee, Baume & Mercier PR and advertising manager; Jennifer Lam, regional marketing and communications manager Angel Chan, trade marketing executive

A night of elegant moments

Get a whiff of the new Manny and Jinkee scents

CAGAT Mesa, met Joey Server

FROM MY grandfather to my father and me, we have always been collectors of that world-class, Old World watch brand Baume & Mercier, one of the greatest houses of them watchmaking.

Aware of this, dubbings, we made sure not to miss the trio exclusive happening which featured an awesome exhibit of the latest collection Jinnie Baume & Mercier, held at Fashion Walk, Greenbelt 5.

Carrying the theme "Life is About Moments," the exhibit for this prestigious watch brand showed us touches of the highest quality endowed with the brand's signature classic and timeless heritage.

Proudly smiling over the super successful launching was the vice chairman Monsieur Chris Baumann, managing director of South East Asia, Eliane de Meester, who joined guests to get her with Baume & Mercier trade marketing executive Angel Chan, regional marketing and communications manager Jennifer Lam, and public relations and advertising manager Nikki Lee, pictured, just for this event.

"Our collection embodies a noble living to anchor the state of mind that life is about moments. And the Philippines is the perfect venue to showcase our product. We became Filipinos since our brand image and lifestyle," said Monsieur Baumann.

Singling and elucidating about this fine watch were the brilliant executives from Luxente, exclusive distributor of Baume & Mercier in the Philippines, led by managing director Jasmine and Jean Yao and marketing manager Rita Acuh-Alvarez.

Adding a touch of timeless beauty and style was movie-TV icon Gretchen Barretto, who was presented with a "Linea" watch, to her surprise, and was totally delighted and honored with the gift.

Well, dubbings, I wasn't be, so, it bais, palangga?

Guests were treated to refreshments reminiscent of seaside living, while they casually viewed the elegant timepieces per se display.

Showcased during the exhibit were Baume & Mercier's reinterpreted stunning watch models: ladies' Linea and men's Classima and Capeland which truly match the lifestyle and values of today's individuals, while immortalizing one's important life moments.

These elegant timepieces are available at the Baume & Mercier boutique at Ayala, 3/F Greenbelt 5.

Manny and Jinkee scents

That man who makes over a million dollars with each punch is now going to make you smell like a million bucks, palangga.

World champion/senator Manny Pacquiao is about to start peddling his own fragrance, courtesy of a deal with Oud Imasi that has earned the respect of the retail world, the renowned Monde, tatoh! And he's not doing it alone, dubbings.

Wife Jinkee, who has become a regular on magazine covers and billboards, will also have her own scent, following in the bootsteps of her new gal pal, Pinty Bilson, no less.

Manny and Jinkee P. signed the scent wars with Monde at the Melia Hotel the same weekend Manny fell for Lan Ye gun—actually for a few hours before he boarded his flight—where he still face Juan Manuel Marquez for another 12-round bout.

And while the ink was drying on the contract, Manny and Jinkee were already choosing their preferred scents, bottles and packaging for the fragrances which will be bearing their names.

Manny's, as expected, explained, "Manny will be a very manly mix, a fresh, sporty scent that marks of leather notes and tobacco and a mysterious, pure amber presence." While Jinkee said, "I choose a sweeter scent, a refreshing brew with fruity floral notes."

Both scents are due in the market next summer, palangga, and we can't wait to take a sniffed it.

The power couple joins other celebrity tweeteries, like Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres and Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid, who also have "his and hers bottles" for beach.

As of last count, the celebrity endorsers with spontaneous fragrances for beach already tally 12.

One thing is for sure, dubbings. This awesome twosome, Manny and Jinkee Pacquiao, will totally be a knockout addition, palangga.

September celebrants at Nuvo

It was a happening bill of Sapphires and Opals when all the beautiful faces and young at heart got together under one roof at one town's awesome happening hangout, nine years and counting—Nuvo Bar and Restaurant at Greenbelt 2, dubbings.

Anniversaries, the bash got on a wild swing as the newest top resident DJ Arnel Gonsalvez dished out tunes that kept the women dancing in their stiletto heels as some men joined them, while the silver girl watched from the bar, natch.

Grooving all the members in a partying mood was Skyy Vodka, which totally helped keep the upbeat vibe rolling for the four celebrants—Ana Amigo-Antonio, Jing Uy, Joey Server and Ray Jorge...who had their cakes and ate them, too, thanks to Bulgari and Gaerlain.

Want to be one of the lucky few to celebrate your upcoming special day in Nuvo, dubbings? Check out nuvomanila@yahoo.com or call 7273698.

You'll definitely be in for a fun night to remember—or a headache the following day from all the booze you drank and wish to forget...if that's palangga?

DONNA Muzo Chua, spouse Taylor Hirling, Liberty Mufalo

NUVO residential DJ Arnel Gonsalvez, Ethan Edward

SHIRLEY Tan, Marielle Capistrano

ALI Peak, Ran Chatyanont, Pepper Tadeo-Jones, Kelly Trinidad

SAM Jorge, Cia Navio Cruz, Arleen Sipin-Santos, Grace Barrozo, Michelle Manzano

BUNNY Arzola, Pamela Formola, JR Isaac

CHEYO Nuo, Louie Martinez, Aiann Navarro

THE CELEBRANTS with their gifts from Bulgari and Guerlain. Ray Jorge, Jing Uy, Ana Amigo-Antonio, Joey Server

MIGUEL Pascual, Kristine Lim, Darren Lim, Bryan Lim, YumiGim, Monika Gim, Manny and Jinkee Pacquiao, Ben Chua, Virgilio Lim, Dalo de la Cruz

LUCERNE managing director Jean Yao and managing director Emerson Yao, Gretchen Barretto, Baume & Mercier Manila East Asia managing director Christian Bertrand

IVAN Calmares, Ina Arrillia, Pj Cailo

CHRISTIAN Barlaan and Gretchen Barretto check out the new Baume & Mercier collection

EVENT host David Castro

KOHY Ee, Edwin Ong, Michael Chang, Susan Ong, Luxente managing director Jean Yao

JINKEE with through a variety of scents for her upcoming fragrances with Monde

MANNY and Jinkee Pacquiao have signed a contract to create his and hers fragrances with retail brand Monde. These fragrances will be out soon as per Virgilio Lim and Ben Chan to have as Jinkee and Manny

LIFESTYLE Parenting

Singapore is for the family

By Pam Pastor

SOME PLACES just seem to be built for family fun. Singapore is one of them—it's clean, it's safe, it's neat, it's convenient, there are plenty of things to do and with its efficient public transport system, and it's easy to navigate, even with all your kids in tow.

Thinking about spending the upcoming semibreak in the Lion City?

Where to stay

• **Pan Pacific Hotel at Resorts World Sentosa.** This hotel was designed especially for families, with separate chambers for parents and loft beds for kids. Suites can be fitted with beds for extra sleeping space. The hotel also features a kids' arcade and family restaurant. Your kids will also appreciate the hotel's proximity to Universal Studios.

Fun for teens

• **Visit Louis Vuitton Island.** If mom is a fan of the brand, check out this luxury store, which also offers exhibitions and a book store.

• **Shop at KOO Orchard.** Don't forget to pick up a discount passport and enjoy bargains from your favorite stores.

• **Get a spa treatment at Aroma The Garden Spa (Robins Park 2, 1302 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1).** This spa asks you to answer a questionnaire before your treatment so they can make sure your selections suits your needs.

Fun for dad

• **If dad is a foodie, he will love Marina Bay Sands' restaurant lineup.** Seven culinarily chefs have made the entertainment destination their home to impressive—Mark Retail (Francis and Osamu Mosuu); Daniel Boulud (de Bistro Moderne); Wolfgang Puck (CUT); Justin Quek (Sky on 57); Sarah Tantamanila (Sarah); Guy Savoy (Guy Savoy); and Tetsuya Wakuda (Waku Ghin).

• **Check out the gadgets at Sun Digital Life Mall.** This place is famous for offering electronics at good prices.

Still choosing a destination for this semibreak? The Lion City has a lot of treats for parents and kids

Fun for the whole family

• **Spend a day at Universal Studios.** This theme park offers seven zones including Madagascar and Far Far Away, Ku Ft. City, Ancient Egypt, The Lost World, New York and Hollywood. If your kids are crazy about roller coasters, let them ride the rollercoaster of dueling roller coasters in the world. Enjoy the world's first Madagascar-themed crash ride and the world's first Far Far Away Castle (from the movie "Shrek"). Anyone up for the Revenge of the Mummy, the high-speed indoor roller coaster that plunges you into darkness.

Get on the Jurassic Park Rapids, watch WaterWorld, and interact with Donkey live. There are special Halloween nights from Oct. 27-29.

Transformers: The Ride is currently under construction and is set to open later this year.

SINGAPORE TI

PARENT TIP

Raising an only child

MARGOT Ocampo with son Miguel

HOW DOES a parent train an only child to be independent? Cebu City councilor Margot Ocampo and her husband, Cebu Rep. Tomas Osmeña, have their own formula in raising Miguel, now in his 20s and who studied abroad. "We realized early on that he has to learn to fend for himself," said Margot, shown here with Miguel. "So, taught him how to be very competitive. We conditioned him to go into competitions, such as swimming. He was always on his own. But then, we didn't baby him."

Singapore is for the family

THIRD-CLASS cabin in Titanic exhibition/Van Gogh's "Starry Night"

From page F1

Guests pay S$60 on weekdays and S$72 on weekends and school holidays, while kids pay S$40 on weekdays and S$52 on weekends and school holidays.

Senior citizens pay S$50 on weekdays and S$56 on weekends and school holidays. Twin-day passes are also available.

● **Visit Marina Bay Sands' Ambiverse Museum.** There are 21 galleries to explore — permanent exhibitions that showcase the passions of creatives, an interactive gallery, multimedia galleries. The "Van Gogh" exhibition runs until Nov. 6. "Titanic The Artifact Exhibition" opened Oct. 10. Ticket prices range from S$9-S$28.

● **Check out the view of the clouds from 200 Sky Head for the Adventure Cockpit** — the first of its kind in Asia — and check out the surrounding landscape in real time with three interactive telescopes.

● **Visit the Maritime Experiential Museum and Aquarium** at Resorts World. Housed in the museum ship, experience the Typhoon Theatre, gawk at the head of Shamu and learn about life at sea. Adults pay S$21 to swim, kids pay S$12. There's an extra fee to get access to the Typhoon Theatre (S$6 for adults, S$4.50 for kids).

● **Broadway favorite "Wicked"** will kick off on Dec. 7. Ticket range from S$195-S$245.

● **Skate at the Marina Bay Sands' skating rink** located in the Grand Level near Hawkers Market Esplanade. Adults pay S$7 an hour (S$5 for an extra hour) and S$3 for skate rental. Kids 12 years old and younger pay S$6 an hour (S$4 for an extra hour) and S$3 for skate rental.

● **Take a Singapore ride along the canal at The Singapore at Marina Bay Sands.** Buy S$30 per person/ride three Chinese wooden boats.

● **Enjoy the Singapore River Cruise.** Ticket prices start at S$8 and can be purchased from any Singapore River Cruise jetty.

FESTIVE mood at Resorts World Sentosa

DUELING roller coasters at Universal Studios

INSPIRATION gallery at the ArtScience Museum

Proper breathing helps relieve sleep disorders

SNORING (S)OS? Want to a healthier and longer life? However, for people who suffer from sleep disorders, a good night's rest is always a challenge.

Tell of now a hundred sleep disorders, none is more serious and life-threatening than obstructive sleep apnea, in which breathing pauses up to 10 seconds many times during the night. This condition is associated with hypertension, heart problems, stroke, obesity, sexual dysfunction, and clinical depression.

Sleep apnea and other sleep disorders can be successfully managed by adopting Lee Breathing through the Buteyko method. Introduced to the country by Jon Volpes, an Australian senior practitioner with "X" years of experience in teaching the method, Buteyko has helped many PA-patients get sound, snore-free sleep in the next 14 days, boosted providing immediate and long-term relief from asthma, allergies, anxiety disorders, hay fever, coughing and stress.

Volpes will conduct a series of Buteyko workshops — the two-hour sessions for adults and children (at least 8 years old) Nov. 8-10, 14 and 22, 4-6 p.m. at Living Life Well, 5/L, Mega Ashton, 584 Megacraft, Nov. 11, 4-6 p.m., and Nov. 12-13, 19 and 20, 4-6 p.m. at PHILEMON Partnership Center, 50 C. Salvador St. (left off G. Gonzales, Katipunan Avenue), Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Nov. 15-17, 21 and 23, schools of 3-4 p.m. in 6-8 p.m. / at In Touch Community Services, 69 A. Mabini-ley Road, Forbes Park, Makati.

Volpes is also available for private consultations and online coaching. Certified with introducing Buteyko to Southeast Asia, he regularly teaches like method in Hong Kong, Thailand and Indonesia.

Call 519-5143/0908 or 867-1864, e-mail jasod@gmail.com, visit www.buteyko-ion.com and www.buteykoasia.multiply.com.

Resort-spa family packages

Sheridan Resort and Spa helps families celebrate Christmas with a special promotion dubbed "Christmas Holiday Package" from Dec. 23-26.

The package includes three-day, two-night accommodation (twin occupancy) in a deluxe mountain or deluxe pool view room, daily breakfasts for two, airport transfer (point transfers), welcome drinks upon arrival, tropical fruit basket in your room upon arrival, and a special Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet.

The best includes fresh seafood, Asian dishes, duckling, roasted turkey with gilded gravy and fruit cakes. The experience comes complete with the Gardens and an acoustic band.

The package also includes a half-day tour of the world-famous Subterranean River National Park (limited guest tours), a 30-minute massage at the Sheridan Spa, free one-hour use of non-motorized aqua sport, 20-percent discount on all Tv's, complimentary use of the Olympic-size swimming pool, gym and tennis, and free Internet access in the room. All these at P8,888 per person (tax included) for the Deluxe Mountain View room and P10,488 per person for a Deluxe Pool View. Rooms are subject to availability.

Call 3736808 or 0920-909-7000 (Globe), e-mail reservations@sheridan-fresort.com.

Cooking demos

On Nov. 12, 1:30-5:30 p.m., Chef Patricia Ines Gonzalez-Zamilpa from the Glorious Recipe Kitchen will demonstrate the making of wellness treats like Food for the Gods, Dutch Bars, Red Velvet Cake, Ny-vanilla and Churro Cake. The Vegan Edition is known for its homemade butter cake packed in a blue-and-white box. Chef Inez will also share packaging suggestions for those who want to try out and sell baked goods in the coming holiday seasons. Kids Cooking Workshop for children 5-11 years old is also scheduled on the same day. Visit www.theglorious-kitchen.com, e-mail contactus@theglorious-kitchen.com, call 900-1155, 661-3011 local 108.

Writing workshop for adults

Taiwan Book Review offers writing workshop for professionals and college graduates beginning Nov. 12, 9-12 noon and 2-5 p.m. The workshop each can for nine sessions over and will be held in Adventure Town, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati. The course includes a review of grammar and writing styles, qualities of good effective writing, essay writing, report writing, journalism, business writing, resume writing, interview writing, and short story writing. Call 815-4838, 817-5925, 908-8435, e-mail ombudsman@yahoo.com.

Kabbalah lecture

London-based Kabbalah instructor Sarah Weston will deliver the lecture "Believing Impossible: How to create changes in your life" on Nov. 19, 12 p.m. at Mandarin Hotel, Makati. Early-bird rate is P1,200 and Nov. 19, regular rate is P1,500. Text 0920-9023009 or e-mail Philippines@kabbalah.com.

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How quality childcare products help Rafa Alunan become the best dad he can be

RAFA ensures Lucas' safety with the help of Safety 1st Perfect Fit Guide.

FINDING reassurance in Safety 1st's On Board Infant Car Seat

A WORKING parent, businessman and doting father of three, Rafa Alunan has learned the value of playing a responsible and active role in child-rearing. Here, the firstborn of style setter and well-known personality Amina Aranaz-Alunan shares what he has learned over the last few years and offers some useful advice.

I turned to quality childcare products.

As he was learning the ropes of fatherhood, Alunan turned to trusted and leading home and travel safety for kids brand Safety 1st, which helped ease him tremendously into the role.

"Just like any other first-time parent, I was both nervous and excited about parenthood. And having to learn how to use childcare products added to the anxiety. But then Amina and I discovered Safety 1st, which made the entire experience easier and much more fun."

The brand's promise of providing user-friendly child-safety products proved useful.

"Safety 1st's lineup is so low-maintenance, easy to use and extremely reliable," he says. Alunan adds that he is particularly fond of its line of strollers and car seats. "We travel a lot as a family, so it's important to us that the child-safety products we bring are easy enough to carry around, without compromising on quality."

A little family moments count.

"Family always comes first, and nothing can replace the time you spend with them," says Alunan. He engages in fun activities with his children whenever they're together. "I take them to the park or go swimming with them. Sometimes, we even go to the beach if there's an opportunity. It's a good way to bond with the kids and just enjoy their company."

His newest hope as a dad rules is cherish-fully bestowed in his kids' lives include being able to relive his Lucas' look all by himself.

"I'm no expert, but I sometimes unwind to make the kids or look even better than the last?" he says, laughing. "It's really these little things that make the dad job so fulfilling."

A little balance is never an excuse.

A self-confessed headache dad, Alunan makes sure quality time with kids Lucas, Hadass and Hugo does not become the

SAFETY 1st's Dreamyard Door Safety Kit helps keep children out of danger.

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BCD-PINPOINT

A mild, tear-free baby shampoo

BABY TIME is a precious bonding moment between mother and baby. As baby relaxes head to toe as warm water, mom makes sure touch don't interrupt the shared moment. Global brand Avon, the consumer for women, provides only the best products to care for baby's delicate skin.

Avon Baby Shampoo (200 ml) has a mild, easy-rinse, tear-free formula that gently cleanses to leave baby's hair soft, shining and sweet-smelling without drying. baby's delicate scalp. Avon Baby Shampoo is free of dyes and parabens, and dermatologist-, ophthalmologist- and allergy-tested, ensuring suitability to sensitive skin and for everyday use. It even comes in an ergonomic, mom-friendly package for easy single-handed use.

"Avon Baby Shampoo builds on Avon's line of baby products as well as on Avon's commitment to respond to the needs of women," said Shari Ann Barcelo Feliciano, Southeast Asia category head for Avon Color and Personal Care. "Like Avon Baby Moisturizing Lotion, Avon Baby by Tear-Free Bracket-Free Wash and Shampoo, and Avon Baby's soothing Oil introduced before, Avon Baby Shampoo is developed by experts who are moms themselves, tested by pediatricians and approved by moms.

Avon Baby Shampoo is available for P249 through Avon representatives nationwide. Visit www.avonbaby.com and www.avon.com.ph for more details on Avon's baby-care line. Don't have an Avon Lady yet? Call the Avon Customer Hotline 8045000 or log on to www.avon.com.ph to find out how you can get in touch with an Avon Lady.

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Why I love Halloween

LET ME tell you something. I used to be a Halloween grouch. The biggest, earliest Halloween grinch ever. Halloween decorations in front of the house? I couldn't be bothered. Candies to give the kids? "What for?" I thought to myself, as I make plans to go away for the usually long weekend. Nobody would be home to give them out.

It was not as if I didn't experience Halloween as a child. On the contrary, I have wonderful memories of Halloween! I remember celebrating it year after year in the village. There was always a "costume parade" in order to allow the judges (a no-who-deserved-to-win-the-different categories, such as "Each an," "Most Original," "Youngest" and, of course, "Scariest."

After all the games had been played and prizes handed out, the kids would parade out of the clubhouse, where an Air Ashun awaited to lead the "kick or treat" route parade. All the houses on the route would open up to tackle one another with their Halloween decorations and giveaways.

While most homes gave away candies, you could always count on a couple to give away dirty ice cream and take (instead of the candy). You gotta love the '80s and its unapologetic proliferation for excess!

The next day, my mom would head to all the Ka'Callahans to tell my grandfather's bank to gather with the whole family. He would spread the candies due to the connoisseurs, praying

Audrey Tan-Zubiri
Contributor

countless years to come while making bulk of it out from the droppings of the numerous candies of years.

At night, my cousins and I would relax each other after with horror stories about the supposedly haunted house on the corner and other made-up tales of horror and lore.

Bunny-rabbit costume

And then, the years passed and Halloween became just another white holiday. Sometimes I would dress up with my friends, but without any end of fuel. In fact, I thought I had outgrown Halloween for good until one day. I found myself pondering upon how my rabbit costume for a baby who, at that point in time, was still snug in a bag in my tummy.

I guess when it comes to finding ways to make kids' childhoods as memorable and enjoyable as possible, many moms will always do whatever it takes, regardless of how they used to feel about it or the effort it entails. And so, aside from the many other events and happenings that childhoods are made of, moms have spent decades trying to make Halloween as much fun as they can for the sake of their kids.

For my part, initially, it really was just all about making sure they had a photo or two for their baby albums and for them to experience it, just like we did in our childhoods. Or so I thought. Nowadays, I can't help but wonder who is actually enjoying more—us or the kids!

As a result, seeing my kids really themselves—laughing in their costumes while happily running from house to house for candies—is more than enough to make me want to keep this up for as long as they want me to.

I can't help but laugh every time I see my daughter getting dressed in whatever costume we have decided on, whether she is a ladybug, princess, Batman's fiancée, or a pirate—and judging from the number of kids dressed up in masks and all, I guess, I'm willing to bet I'm not the only parent who gets a kick out of dressing up their kids for Halloween.

And as for the kids, I find for gotten how amazing children's imaginations can be. But just one afternoon at a children's Halloween party is more than enough to remind anyone of that!

Imagine, with just one zip of their costumes, young boys are immediately transformed and run around with their hands up, growling and roaring like the monsters and aliens they are dressed as.

Meanwhile, there are more than enough adorable little girls dressed to the nines as ballerinas, princesses and witches, all hopping and skipping around while holding tight to their wands and hats.

Then come the pirate girls wearing their little swords and running to hug their fellow boys and our ravers walk the plank! Shiver me timbers! Blackbeard would be proud!

Trick-or-treating roundup

And as it was that last week, during this year's Halloween, we found ourselves trick or treating amongst everywhere we could go!

While going around the streets, from one village to another, I had time to observe everything around me. I wonder if the decorations of the year were really so different from previous years, or if perhaps they just appeared that way to the young child that I was?

Whatever it was, there were more than enough houses with both homemade and store-bought decorations consisting of orange-and-black pumpkins, cobwebs and ghosts on their front doors to keep the kids deciding with delight.

And then the one of the show—the candies! It doesn't matter what kind of candies they get. All that matters to these little guys is that they are able to fill up their baskets with as much goodies as possible.

And while their happy faces—truly do light up our home at the end of the trick-or-treating day is it, unfortunately, also our job to make sure no kids don't eat every candy in their basket until their teeth fall off from all that sugar.

Fortunately, I get to be in charge of taking it as well—in six doses, by moments envy—accept no searching. For the kids don't have to know that.

Of course, all fun things must come to an end. Before we know it, Halloween rolled into All Saints' and All Souls' Days. The costumes were tucked away in the closet and the throwaway and preteen brought out. But not without a wink and a giggle, as we look forward to next year's costumes and candies once again!

CHOPSUEY Adriana and Fina Haan Migs.

Lucky 8th year for halfway house for kids

THE HALFWAY house for children afflicted with cancer celebrates its lengthy commitment for a fifth time at Caltimex.

Despite hurdles that come along its way, Child Haus manages to overcome every-thing—an eviction, lack of funds and many more—to fulfill its mission of nurturing not only sickness, but young souls and families as well.

Since Child Haus moved from its former premises in Quezon Institute along E. Rodriguez Avenue, it has begun to face more daunting challenges.

For one, Child Haus now shoulders its own rental, water and electricity expenses. Because of this, its budget is pre-ellipsed and tense.

For another, where patients used to inhabit a spacious lot with a vast play area and rooms that could accommodate quite a number, the children now adjust to living in a cozy three-story house on a 400-sq.m. lot. The place is nonetheless cheerful and comfortable.

KID offered with cancer enjoying play activity.

"We spend P80,000 a month—that's P1,500 a day. We allot P500 per meal. We consume one gas every two days and even not find a carefully positioned. A sack of rice would suffice for 10 days or, at best, two days. We consume seven kilos of vegetables a day, four kilos of fish and meat a day," says Baylee Castillo, a social worker and also child member at Child Haus.

But by divine providence, things are working out.

Through the eight years of its existence, Child Haus has provided over 7,000 patients with a home away from home. Today, it continues to house its current crowd of patients patients, each with one parent or guardian, free of charge.

"We used to have around 120-140 patients a day who may there to five years for their rehabilitation, but since the treatment they have been reduced to 70 a day. But we are adjusting given such," Castillo adds.

Around 70 to 80 percent of the patients brought in have malignant ailments, such as heart disease, cleft palates, hydrocephalus or complications from cancer infecting the organs to cancers infecting the brain and heart.

And with this kind of sickness, special care comes in and therefore to medication, maintenance, food and other expenses. Despite the challenging task of tending each room, the staff in Child Haus manages to make it work.

Every Friday they give donations in kind to patients and their families such as laundry needs, dishwashing paste, toothpaste and toothbrushes, canned goods and noodles, depending on which stock is available and plentiful.

But Child Haus is never alone in its daily strife to keep the kids satisfied and happy for every need.

There are many good-hearted souls who come along the way and share what they can, when they can.

Operating expenses for Child Haus reach P6 million to P7 million a year, but through the goodness of donors' heart, they manage. One of the staunch and unwavering figures is founder Rocky Peters, who used her own funds and by extension nothing solicitations from friends and prospect donors.

Eight years and 7,000 patients later, Child Haus keeps on their focus. Child Haus keeps on its original commitment, upholding not only children's health, but their quality of life as well.

Donations and volunteers are welcome at Child Haus. For details, call 4142421, 4916-4252927; e-mail childhaus@yahoo.com.

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TAKE FIVE

GMO Public

Just can't get enough of the '80s

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE MUSIC of the past four decades never really left us. More often than not, we hear songs from the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s — on radio, in club gigs and big concerts.

Lately, it's the '80s that have been generating a lot of attention. We remember the sold-out concert of the British duo Tears For Fears in May 2010 in the Big Dome; the reunion gig of the Pinoy group Monday Child in September this year at the SM Time; a show featuring The Human League, Howard Jones and Belinda Carlisle in October also this year at the Big Dome; the opening of a club called Cafe '80s in Ortigas Center and in Quezon City; and, of course, the long-running and award-winning radio show on 88.9 STR, "Back to the 80s."

As a lasting tribute to the period, a concert titled "ORIGINS" ('60 to '90) will be held for four nights on Nov. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at the Music Museum. It features Lou Bonoyoir, Chad Borja, Gian Padilla, Jamie Rivera, Ella Mae Saison and Juan Miguel Salvador performing songs from an era that saw the explosion of punk and New Wave music and Jackson, and the release of the biggest-selling album of all time, Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

Inquirer asked Salvador, Padilla and Borja to recall what the '80s meant to them.

What particular '80s moment did you think change your life, and why?

Juan Miguel Salvador (JS): My living part of the Rage Band. As a founding member, singer and keyboardist, I did not just get to live through it, but actually got to be part of the music scene. There wouldn't have been a better way to experience the culture of that decade but through music.

Gian Padilla (GP): When I had a duet with the great rock and roll legend, Mr. Tina Turner, in a 1986 Pepsi commercial that was shot in Hollywood! It was the start of my professional singing career.

Chad Borja (CB): I was with different bands during the '80s and got to travel a lot. I experi-

CHAD Borja

(ARE 42)

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JUAN Miguel Salvador

Just can't...

From page G1

record different cultures and food specialties such as grilled stingray in Seven Grain, Singapore, Jakarta in Indonesia, but we're going to Thailand, surround and was gunning in Indonesia, among others. This was the time I learned so much about music and performing.

What was different about the '80s compared to previous decades?

JS: Electronic gadgets and music software. Enough many of those were invented a decade earlier. Among them were sounds keyboards, electronic synthesizers, guitar synths, electronic drumpads, analog and digital effects processors. The use of these gadgets defined the sound of the '80s.

GP: Music had synthesized sounds and electronic beats. There was colorful fashion with shoulder pads and hair spray.

CB: The '80s were full of color which defines happiness. Everything was related including the clothes, hairstyles and accessories. The musical arrangement featured machines like synthesizers and Simmons drums. It was also the birth of Yamaha DX7 electronic keyboards.

What did you like most about the '80s?

JS: Individualism. It was a chance for everyone to make a statement, not just in politics but in fashion as well. You could particularly pick anything from safety pins, chains, buttons, beads, paper clips, etc. and use them as fashion statements. Pony hair could be waxed, cropped, cubed, bleached, or dyed any color. Experimentation was the norm and the sense could be said about the music of that decade.

GP: A credit to artists, Philippine and foreign.

CB: The improvement of technology for musical instruments. The sound of the Simmons is, compulsive, electric guitar, percussion, and others were incorporated into the Yamaha DX7.

And what did you hate about it?

JS: People Power. Although I was part of it, after 25 years I have come to realize that it did not change anything. Corruption is still rampant. There are even more politically motivated killings, summer shooting during elections, more slum areas and hungry people while we have politicians and leadership effectively resorted to exclusive villages and expensive condominiums. Nothing has changed since.

GP: Phone technology was still being developed. Computers, too, were not that advanced yet.

CB: There was nothing to hate, as far as the music was concerned.

Who's the greatest '80s music artist, and why?

JS: The King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Though he was not particularly my favorite, he was, to a certain Michael, considered #1. He changed people's attitude towards world hunger and the role that children play in shaping the future. It wasn't just his music, but the purpose behind his being a musician that mattered.

GP: Michael Jackson. He was an amazing artist, incredible dancer, and his music had worldwide appeal. His compassionate heart was also reflected in his songs.

CB: For me it's Prince because he was truly a different and unique artist.

What's the greatest '80s song?

JS: "We Are the World." It made us look beyond ourselves, step out of our comfort zones and make a difference by pulling together to help the starving people of Ethiopia. That song awakened humanity's generous spirit.

GP: "We Are the World"—where all the great singers of that decade were

JUST IN

Juan Miguel Salvador: 'All that I am now as a performer is the result of my experiences in the '80s.' Gino Padilla: 'It was a time for discovering and developing my talent.' Chad Borja: 'That was when I realized I was destined to be a performer'

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"A BLOOD PUMPING THRILL RIDE OF A MOVIE" — The Times

RYAN GOSLING

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Just...

From page G3

added to our song.

CR: Some of my favorites are "There's What Friends Are For," "Rhythm of the Night" and "Be songs of Brazil fav- ite.

What did the 'Wa mean to you per- sonally?

JS: Everything. All that I am now is as artist and per- former is the result of the experiences I went through in the '80s.

CP: It was a time for discovering and developing my ta- ent.

CR: That was when I realized that I was destined to be a performer, and that singing would be my bread and butter. It was really my passion. From then on, I knew that I would keep singing/dancing.

THE CONCERT
"BLISS" also features Rivera (center), Lea Salonga and Sitt Hay Salonga

Critics, fans praise new Amy Winehouse singles

LOS ANGELES—Two previously unreleased songs from Amy Winehouse aired on radio stations last week, ahead of her posthumous album, on generating mostly positive comments from critics and Winehouse memories for fans.

The reggae-infused track "Our Day Will Come" premiered on BBC1 Radio 1 (listen on Thursday and is a cover of Ruby & The Romantics' cheery song. Another, "Like Smoke," is a collaboration with rapper Nas, and it premiered on Wednesday on New York's Hot 97 radio station.

The December album, "Amy Winehouse Lioness: Hidden Treasures," was announced on the late singer's 28th birthday last week, along with the 12-track listing, which includes alternate versions of Winehouse's hit singles like "Valerie" along with unreleased tracks and new compositions.

NME magazine's Dan Martin described "Our Day Will Come" as "perhaps more the real Amy than the one that the vision would have us remember." Martin said the Nas collaboration "Like Smoke" was "one of the most nerve-wrenching of the whole record," as the rapper had been drafted to complete the unfinished demo after Winehouse's death in July.

Winehouse's fans have received the new tracks positively on Facebook and Twitter, calling it "gorgeous" and "bittersweet."

The singer was found dead in her London home in July age 27, due to what coroners later said was from toxins the legal limit of alcohol in her system. *Reuters*

'Living the dream'

MIMI YORK—Award-winning director Dustin Ancoechea will direct a music video from the new Metallica song and Lou Reed album, "Lulu."

Reel known for hit Ocon-nominated films "Black Swan" and "The Wrestler," Aronofsky will produce a video for the track "Iced Honey." Swans will be shot in the San Francisco Bay area and will be available for viewing later this month.

Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich said in a statement last week that working with Reed and Aronofsky is "living the dream."

Aronofsky brings his cinematic, MetHow Lifestyles, to the project as director of photography. Lifestyles has worked on all of Aronofsky's feature releases and has been a cinematographer for several Spike Lee films.

Released last week, "Lulu" is inspired by German playwright Frank Wedekind. Reed called the album "the best music I have ever done."

Several years ago, an editor blindsided (she "hating Aronofsky," was adapted by screenwriting artist Duncan Jbeth and lyricist Steven Slaten, and tests the Tony for best musical. *AP*

ENTERTAINMENT

BUT Tito, Vic and Joey prepared an R-rated show for the OFWs. "Shutaps," said Vic, "we're free to do anything."

ALLAN K does a "Hiderdimwar" monologue, machine-gun-style.

"It's no use being pretty or intelligent if you cannot EXPRESS YOURSELF."
-Vernon Tapulla

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE

MALLY Bayola and Jose Manalo had to combine their acts.

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First 'Bulagaan' in Singapore a lot naughtier

The 'Dabarkads' get to combine work, pleasure on the road

By Rayzel Sun Diego jr.
Photos by Beyond Photography, MASP and Skittlez

SINGAPORE—It was a sight so familiar as adults on the table at hotels.

As the Eh Bahay gamed relentlessly onstage, Tito, Vic and Joey circled our audience and one-liners. Paolo Ballesteros, in drag as Shamcey Mwah-Mwah Toup Toup, upstaged the gifts, including unsuning Jun Calzado.

Audience warmer Philip Lucaro convinced the crowd, which included Philippine Ambassador Minda Calagiovan-Cruz, to do the "Bump Rotchet" dance.

Global activity

As expected, Allan K brought the house down with his Miss Universe monologue. Jose Manalo and Wally Bayola, for their part, named the "Juan for all, all for Juan" segment into a global activity—from "negrol barangay" to "negrol sliet." The reigning national parlor game, "Pinoy Henyo," was likewise tweaked for the mostly OFW audience.

But "Eat Bulaga!" fixture might have been revised, too: "Mala Ajuna's Hanggang Hugis-puso?"

Last Oct. 30, Eh Bahay left their comfort zone at Broadway Centrum in Quezon City to perform for Filipinos at D'Marquee, Pasir Ris, in the city-state.

The venue wasn't the only marked change. As a production staffer pointed out, the team projected an R-rated version of "Eat Bulaga!" for the Singapore crowd. "[Today] are our couch jokes that we don't normally do on live noontime TV," Tito Sotto reminded.

"It's totally unpredictable," Vic Sotto agreed. "We're here to do anything outrage kasi."

"We want to offer our dabarkadgasms something new," added Joey de Leon.

It's not altogether handy humor, explained Tito, "just a little naughty."

Needless to say the audience lapped up the TVJ brand of slightly risqué humor.

Sold out

Tickets (S$35-S$65) to the 2,000-capacity venue were sold out, reported the promoters Ibaline Inc. Entertainment, led by Maia de Guzman, Jenico Ong and JJ Quijano.

There were Filipinos who flew in from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Australia to watch the show, said the promoters.

Weren't they worried about the famously strict Singapore censors? Midas Chou-Pagar, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Tipo Inc., said the asked the promoters to check with local authorities. "The jokes in Tagalog were fine, but we had to go easy on the hand gestures. We had to warn Wally and Jose's routine a bit."

PAOLO Ballesteros as Shamcey Mwah-Mwah Toup Toup pushes the baby carriage of the youngest audience member (4 months old).

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First 'Bulagaan' in Singapore …

From page H1

It was no happy accident that the Singapore dinner coincided with the long Halloween weekend.

Joey noted that the road show was also a chance for the Debutbuds to "bond" as a family. The consensus: "It's not work for us, as we get to relax for a few days."

"Traveling helps them grow closer, and Joey, especially experiencing the highs and lows of being on the road.

Food trip

Gone in points: Darleen Luna helped Baby Rodriguez and Julia Clarete do their lessons. "Have learning napkin-folders (a run like we were looking for hotel lines) as we did each other's hair backstage," Baby recalled.

"We don't have much from those shows, but we look forward to it because we get to travel as a group," said Joey, who said he'd like the group to tour Hong Kong next time.

It's also one big food trip for the team. Tito and Vic are occasional foodies. Tito and Vic especially anticipate exotic fare…from chili crabs to barbecued stingray in the Alaskan Cuisines—in their friends' dojo Vilma, Jimmy Santos, Ryan Agoncillo and newly married Dra Geneto.

By the end of the trip, Allan and Jose were complaining of weight gain.

Sam Pinoria, big boss of Tape Inc., said it's important for the ER team to visit and pay tribute to OPMs with a show that's different from what they usually catch on GMA Pinoy TV.

"Most OPMs left the country in the late 1970s and 1980s and they know This, Vic and Joey quite well," the producer said. "They've been away for

LET'S hear it for the girls: (from left) Ice Colcuelo, Baby Rodriguez, Julia Clarete and Pia Guanio.

years and, with this concert, they get a glimpse of home."

Vic concurred: "Aside from reuniting together, we also get to entertain OPMs who worked hard and saved up for tickets to see them!"

In on the joke

Julia noted: "It's our chance to thank them for their support."

ER is semi-retired daily (3 p.m. and 11 p.m.) on GMA Pinoy TV in Singapore and thrice (10:00 p.m., 12 a.m., 3 p.m.) in the United States.

The OPMs are updated with the latest happenings back home, and the Tape bosses.

In the middle of a song rendition, Joey chided Vic for being a jokester. Vic retorted, self-deprecatingly: "Ako nga eng lagay ko, mais. Hell no lang may kapalit na apat. (I'm the one who's always left behind. Good thing, I have four girls on standby.)"

The venue erupted with glee. The Singapore crowd was apparently in on the joke.

(E-mail dearjoanne@gmail.com)

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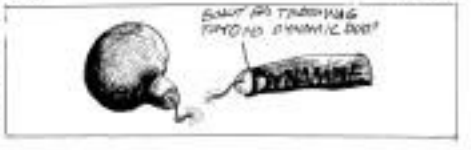

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS GRAVE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

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7	9	6	5	1	3	2	4	8
3	8	1	4	2	8	5	6	7
6	1	3	9	4	5	7	2	1
9	4	5	2	7	1	3	8	6
2	7	8	3	6	4	9	1	5
8	2	4	1	5	9	6	3	7
1	6	9	7	3	2	8	5	4
5	3	7	8	8	6	4	7	9

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

		9	8	7	3	4		
	7						1	
4				5				6
7				2				9
1	3			9	4	6		7
5								2
8								1
	5			4			7	
		7	9	1	2	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Joe Manganiello, alpha werewolf

By Oliver H. Pulsenbark
Contributor

ITALIAN AMERICAN actor Joe Manganiello's first day in Hong Kong was, in a word, hectic. Shortly after arriving at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and having breakfast, he gamely consented with Asian entertainment outlets for HBO series "True Blood" group junket. He was to appear for interviews in other rooms as well.

Manganiello (young guy, yeah, 34, admitted he was a comic book "addict" as a kid in Pittsburgh. He said he also did "huge stacks" of Spider-Man comics, which he tolerated to the owner many years later because, surprisingly, he launched the school book belly Flash Thompson in the 2002 "Spider-Man" film.

The actor then played scrumptious TV characters on "How I Met Your Mother" and "One Tree Hill," but he is best known for his noble werewolf character Alcide in "True Blood," a role returns in Season 4 (Thursdays, 10 p.m.), set a year after the events of Season 3.

MANGANIELLO as werewolf Alcide and Anna Paquin as Sookie Stackhouse in "True Blood"

"I think this is the best cast in television or film ever assembled," he said. "I put it up against any movie or TV show that I've ever seen. Most of the actors are renowned theater actors from around the world. They're all just iconic. And the characters—you don't see an Alcide, a Jason, a Lafayette on any other show. It's really just amazing."

Towering at 6'5", Manganiello said it felt like Tennessee was a character in the show, with its lush, green landscapes and its humid, claustrophobic "Southern Gothic" background," he said. "[The show] is over Tennessee Williams. In the deep South, very hot, very passionate. Everyone wants to fall or sleep with each other. Also in the South of Tennessee Williams, I really do think that if Williams were around today, he'd be Alan Ball, writing about vampires and werewolves!"

Big body

He revealed that growing up was tough because he was a sensitive and artistic kid, but he was "born into a very big body" so he was encouraged to become athletic. He expounded on some real-life alpha male events and other qualities useful to his alpha-wolf character.

"I always played sports growing up. I was the captain of the football team, basketball team, volleyball team. Island that was a role I was always thrust into. As far as dating goes, I believe it's a guy's role to protect his girlfriend. You open car doors, you pick up the tab on the first date, I'm a traditional guy in out of ways."

JOE Manganiello: "I'm a traditional guy in a lot of ways."

Alcide is also very protective of Jessica Hamby, played by Anna Paquin. "Sookie is a consort that Jessica has out of the house and gets him in trouble," Manganiello said. "Please, I'm a traditional guy in out

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The country's biggest construction show . . .

From page B

"The Philippine Constructors Association started this event in 1991. Looking at this year's lineup of participants made us realize how far we have come: 600 companies, 27 countries represented. This is above the hopes and expectations of the people who wanted PHILCONSTRUCT. But with the support and help of our colleagues in various related sectors, we are more than set: we only got better in the years to come," shared Levy Espiritu, current president of PCA, organizers of the event.

With the support of international and national organizations, PHILCONSTRUCT continues to improve with a global showcase of products and technologies. This year, the event will feature developments not only from the local scene but also from Australia, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA, and more. Expect display of brands carried by companies such as Bond Pharmaboard, Cebu Blue Horizons, Concepcion Carrier Air Conditioning Co. Inc., CEMEX Philippines, Dexter Paints, Holcim Philippines, Home Depot, Lafarge Cement, Investon Philippines, Maxima Machineries, Monark Equipment, Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Propat Steel Corp., Qubic Heavy Equipment, Robert Bosch Inc., and Tiger Philippines, among others.

"This year's show is going to be massive," said Reynaldo Ilogadio Jr., Overall chair of PHILCONSTRUCT 2011 and 1st vice president of PCA. "There's a lot of activities and special features that will be taking place alongside the exhibit. For one, we have invited furniture designers and exporters from Pampanga, Cebu, and Manila for a special display of their latest pieces. There are teamed up with ASC Science and Technology from the US for the debut of their ISOWORLD conference here in Asia. The Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) will also be holding their Regional Authorized Managing Officers Seminar during PHILCON.

"The Philippine Constructors Association started this event in 1991. Looking at this year's lineup of participants made us realize how far we have come: 600 companies, 27 countries represented"

STRUCT. There's a lot to look forward to. We're very excited to open the doors this November."

According to PCA executive director, Marcelito Bladeneras, they are expecting no less than 30,000 trade visitors this year. "PHILCONSTRUCT has been very consistent in generating big crowds of decision-makers over the years," he said. "We're very thankful for having the support of our industry partners because they are a huge part of why we keep building this event. Our architects, contractors, engineers, developers, interior designers, project managers, and end-users - they are the market and our job is to expand in their needs. That's what PHILCONSTRUCT is about. It's providing a venue for suppliers to meet the demands of their market."

Over the last several years, PHILCONSTRUCT has established itself as the country's premier end-to- I construction show. The 23-in Philippine International Construction Equipment and Building Materials Exhibition and Technology Forum incorporating HVAC/R PHILIPPINES with PIXMIE, INTERIOR WORLD with FIRE, MINING ASIA and ECOBUILD ASIA with ASC Science & Tech-

CONSTRUCTION B

The country's biggest construction show . . .

Pretoria 12

ndings will be held from November 9 to 12, 2011 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

Supported by over 20 of the top trade and organizations, PHILCONSTRUCT is now recognized as one of the most important industry events in the country today. The exhibit will be open to trade buyers and professionals from 3 p.m. on November 9 and 10, 2011, and on November 10 to 12, show hours will be until 6 p.m. on the first three days and until 5 p.m. on the last day. An entrance fee of P50 will be collected and donated to the Blessed Gerardo Hasta Jr. Mentally Challenged Boys, Child Protection Network Foundation (CPNF), and World Vision - this year's selected beneficiaries.

To find out more, please contact Global-Link MP Events International Inc. at tel. no. (02) 750-0500 to 02 and look for Ms. Faye Esparza or Mr. Tito Macaling. You may also log on to www.philconstruction.com for more info.

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CW Home Depot's Specialty Stores in its latest branch in Makati

Providing a complete home improvement retail experience and environment

Specialty stores are a key component in every branch of CW Home Depot. It is synonymous with exhaustive and complete selling, specialty exhibits and latest furnishing products that meet consumer's solid differential. Each has a small, knowledgeable group of dynamic sales officers that is committed to professional customer in keeping true the customer, could be used to attract sellings since they are trademark, not displayed only on retail shelves but also on company vehicles that is specially made to enhance the retail experience. There are currently 8 specialty stores that can be found in CW Home Depot Makati Branch.

Building Construction

The company took time to study how to design sophisticated shelving with attractive materials and electrical devices. Now customers gain an easy to find and locate the products in a well-lighted building space for visitors. Edible items like tiles for industrial, residential and commercial applications.

Kitchen

One of the showpiece of the kitchen cabinets is geometric series, luxury cabinets perfect for corridors, bathroom & kitchen and dream cabinet shelving and organizers. Its Nuevo Shelving system is well-suited for modular cabinets. It's Solid Maple Stainless Pull-out work doors will show their workmanship, ease of use design and on the ongoing of cabinet doors.

Electrical

Electrical Manufacturing Corporation is the leader in electrical technology in advanced power systems. It has become the leader in the industry for residential, commercial and industrial wide storage and home comfort solutions.

Water Purifying Systems

Founded by Dr. Joshua Ho, he said that this product is not only for the rich, "We have plants from Switzerland to Sydney, Malaysia." The water filtering system is considered the best system and has a fantastic future and further talking about gains the fact that he started his business because of his own personal need to have an environment friendly water purifying system in his home.

Plumbing Installations

As the exclusive distributor of Kohler architectural hardware, Eastern offers a wide array of door hardware, cylinders & keyways to suit all commercial, residential and institutional applications. For more specific options and hardware, Eastern specializes in custom door solutions as well as sophisticated architectural security requirements for today's discerning home builder.

Paints The Everything Store

From the boutique, etc. it is specially suited to hospitals and specialties of a wide array of high quality, and reliable electronic security products used for different applications. From video home security and private surveillance cctv and effective solutions to their security requirements through specialty applications.

HVAC Concepts

The company's vision from the start is bringing innovative development of the Home Depot and is dedicated to offer a wide range of products and services to its customers. Its Nuevo Shelving system is well-suited for modular cabinets. It's Solid Maple Stainless Pull-out work doors will show their workmanship, ease of use design and on the ongoing of cabinet doors.

Mac Advanced Systems

Mac is a specialty single brand accessories equipment store that offers customized electrical wiring and electrical products and also gas system, at a very affordable and competitive price. It offers free installation and warranty for its customers and specializes in multi-point multi-zone water heaters that provides most efficient systems with significant economic savings for its customers.

Model Group

The Model Group started business in 1951 in Tokyo, Japan. In 1990, the company established Model Philippines to manufacture and market its products and take on larger marketing role, production and distribution of construction related products. Model Group is committed to establishing a strong relationship with its customers and to provide customers with quality products and excellent service.

PHENOX (name in square)

Phenox Rubber Based Corporation (PHENOX) was established in 1989 and is an market leader in the integrated wood processing industry in the country. It is also engaged in diversified business activities such as logging, industrial tree plantation, sawmill and plywood plant operation, log and lumber distribution and the construction and export of wood products.

PH Kitchen Inc

PH Kitchen Inc. specializes in the fabrication, assembly and installation of modular kitchen cabinets, wardrobe closets, entertainment cabinets, vanities and other general woodworks. Its flexible modular cabinet system provides customers with various design options for their kitchen cabinets and wardrobe closets, including addition of different finishes and accessories.

Fabricon

Fabricon and its sister company SOU Philippines has been in the electrical and electronics industry for decades and has crafted its products to customers' distinct design preferences as well as to their unique requirements. Its manufacturing facilities include state-of-the-art machinery and technologies that are efficient, cost and environmentally friendly. When it comes to electrical wires, power wiring devices, and controller items, Fabricon is the top choice for homeowners, designers and architects.

Ideal Interiors (concrete square)

Ideal Interior is the Philippines' leading fabric and furnishing house for residential and contract use. With a wide range of upholstery fabrics from the world's leading textile manufacturers, drapery, decorative fabrics, carpets, blinds and wall coverings. Ideal Interior provides its customers with full professional support and service. Ideal is recognized as customer-oriented. Its products include interior decor fabrics, curtains & window treatments (fabrics, rods, tracks, etc.), draperies, furnishings, wallpapers, carpets & rugs, blinds and interior shades, leather, upholstery fabrics and other upholstery supplies.

Mirrors ETC

Mirrors ETC is the largest producer of decorative mirrors in the Philippines. It is also a manufacturer of laminated products which are reasonably priced and customizable, provides creative solutions through installation assistance with its highly experienced craftsmen. It is the exclusive Philippine distributor of Bilumoda Doors and a certified licensee of Bilumoda Flooring systems and an authorized distributor and installer of the popular working board Cast Iron Mirrors.

Woodpecker Mineral Water (name in square)

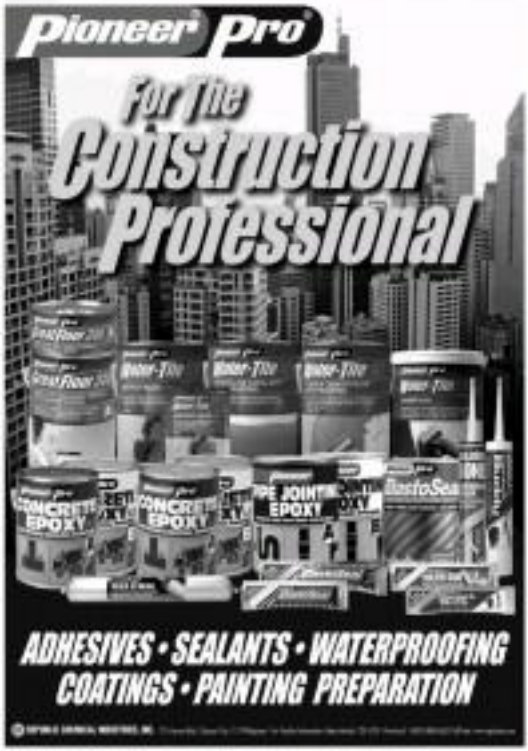
Naturalized Hydrologic and engineered mineral waters are just two of the latest developments in modern day ways to install flooring. Engineered wooden floors on the other hand, gives a natural look and feel of hardwood floors but is more practicable and controlled climate. Modern Wood Flooring products offer value-for-money flooring materials without sacrificing quality.

Lighting Stores

Interior Designers and lighting & electrical contractors and living are the choice of public and business as a home, assisting several types of lighting and a variety more comfortable and aesthetic by creating both glare and dark shadows. Living rooms, dining kitchen, bedroom and other public areas of the home will benefit from both ambient and task lighting treatments. Designers use artificial lighting to create locations in our home, offices, stores, factories, shops, and more for the individuals. There are some of the lighting stores you can find interesting lighting fixtures in the city. Makati branch of CW Home Depot - Anderson, one of Lower, Tiger, Philips Wipro Ge, Panasonic, Osram and Havells India.

Looking for Inverters?

Ideal Interior appointed Home Interior Superstore. CW Home Depot has opened fourteen stores in and almost area from furnishing to accessories. Home Improvement Superstore CW system under Showroom and it is for their first kitchen display. Furniture include curved wood showroom store consists of modern living, bedroom, dining, kitchen, bathroom and other from leather sofas to affordable dining sets. Furniture is custom made and available in Queen & high-quality imported furniture. For your office requirements, Diamond Office Furniture offers a complete line of office furniture and workstations ranging from executive desks and seating to accessories to the finished materials and ergonomic chairs to customized furniture and cabinetry needs.



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In photo (from left): Raul Ang, president of Maxima Machineries Inc.; Cesar Sindelar, president of DMCI Mining Corp.; Jennifer Agbisit, product manager of Maxima Machineries Inc., and Isidro Consunji, president of DMCI Holdings, Inc. DMCI Mining Corp., one of the subsidiaries of DMCI Holdings, Inc., recently acquired 37 units Brand New Hyundai Dump Trucks for their nickel mining operations in Sta. Cruz, Zambales. Built to operate under tough conditions, Hyundai Heavy Duty Trucks are proven to give business owners the best value for their money. That is why DMCI Mining considers Hyundai Truck & Bus as one of their most valuable partners in their continued success in the mining industry. Hyundai Truck & Bus is exclusively distributed by Maxima Machineries Inc.

Improving the home improvement industry

By Alice Uy

THESE DAYS, the market for construction supplies and home furnishings have become more sophisticated and in the last decade, home improvement stores and depots have become stayed to gain more market share in the building materials industry. Since the 1800s, the stores of T. Alonzo and Soler in downtown Binondo while the 1970s to 1980s saw the rise of several wholesale/depot-type companies on top/building supply shops that grew into multi-storey buildings along EDSA in Pasay City and in the Balintawak area.

The general impression was, store prices of these materials tend to vary depending on how well you can bargain with your friendly wholesaler, one can get the best deals in Binondo or EDSA. Most of these stores selling imported hardware and building materials are operated by importers themselves while local products were sold by distributors rather than retail outlets as the prime store operator owners. How does the margins are kept in a minimum, hence the attraction to buying them in these places as contractors and even homeowners have the traffic and access from store to store to make sure they get the best buys for their housing projects.

From ceramic tiles, plumbing electrical fixtures to bathroom, one can buy almost anything in these places. Most of these shop owners kept their margins low by making sure they buy direct from the source or importer or negotiate for good prices from local factories by buying in bulk and become distributors for the brands they carry so they sell wholesale to smaller neighborhood hardware stores, provincial markets and large scale building projects.

Paradigm shift

With the coast of "big box" store commonly called D-I-Y (do it yourself) hardware stores, home improvement stores or home depots in the recent years, several companies like Ace Hardware, Handyman, CW Home Depot and the like are fast getting a large chunk of the market share in the business of building materials and hardware. D-I-Y chains like Ace Hardware which is owned by the SM Group and Handyman, which is an affiliate of the Robinsons Group chose their respective malls as their venues of choice, while home improvement stores like CW Home Depot operates on stand-alone sites that are usually located along main thoroughfares.

This paradigm shift from traditional types of hardware stores allow buyers to choose products all under one roof without having to travel from one store to the other. "We sell and market our products under one roof and assure not just the quality of our products but also the prices of everything we sell in our stores. We offer what traditional hardware stores cannot offer, it is the convenience of shopping for everything in one roof. The time and effort saved by our customers translates to huge financial savings while our customers enjoy those Price Guarantee assure our customers that they are getting the best prices as we either refund them the difference or return them their money," said Ferdinand Co, managing director for CW Home Depot.

While neighborhood hardware stores provide their regular customers with credit lines since the store owners know their neighbors personally, companies like CW Home Depot offer generous interest-free payment plans through its Home Depot credit cards through tie-up with Union Bank. Its first of its kind CW Home Depot Visa Credit Card allows its cardholders to enjoy a year-round 0 percent interest on 3, 6 and 12 months installment terms plus they only get to pay for their first monthly amortization which is deferred for another 2 months. Aside from this, most stores provide a loyalty card of some sort giving prizes for accumulated customer purchases and receive prizes for such milestone of accumulated purchase. Since building a house these days will easily rack up one's bills by hundreds of thousands of pesos, every little hand to rack up loyalty points as well.

The building supplies market is getting more and more sophisticated and has evolved to a level similar to popular department stores. With the years of information technology like smart cards for loyalty programs and bar code sight points of sale retail systems, suppliers can easily forecast demand and supply of their products and have a more efficient way of managing logistics and inventory. One thing remains constant though, the only way to flourish success for these companies is to make sure they manage the human element of marketing system – which is to have an effective customer service.